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MATVEYEV: REASON MUST PREVAIL OVER RASHNESS ON SALT

LD221209 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[V. Matveyev article under rubric "View of a Political Observer": "Honorable Efforts and Unworthy Intrigues"]

[Text] The nearer the work on a new strategic offensive arms limitation agreement between the USSR and the United States comes to completion, the more active the opponents of such an agreement become in the United States, seeking under various fabricated, provocative pretexts to complicate the atmosphere of the current talks and set the public against the idea of Congress approving this agreement after its signing.

Histroy is repeating itself. Military-industrial complex circles are using every lever at their disposal in an attempt to misinform the public concerning the aims and nature of the agreement being elaborated. Sinister "forecasts" on the "dangers" awaiting America if the agreement is signed and comes into force flow as if through a faulty sieve from the pages of bourgeois newspapers, television screens and various platforms. In the same way these same circles tried to frighten the Americans after the 1963 signing of the treaty between the USSR, the United States and Britain on banning nuclear tests in the three environments. This sinister demagoguery has also come into play on other occasions when steps intended to secure our world against nuclear catastrophe and to strengthen the foundations of peace have been in preparation.

But who, in the United States or other Western countries, now dares to attack the 1963 treaty, the strategic arms limitation agreements signed between the USSR and the United States in 1972 and many other enactments whose correctness and urgency for the cause of peace has been confirmed by irrefutable experience of life? The war "hawks" dare not attack existing agreements, but they aim blows against those under preparation.

A selfish interest in forcing through armaments for the sake of fabulous profits at the expense of ordinary American taxpayers--that was and remains the motive of those who initiate malicious propaganda campaigns.

How does the U.S. Government react to such intrigues? That is an important question. Fred Neal, vice president of the American Committee for East-West Accord, wrote recently in the New York TIMES that the supporters of the strategic arms limitation agreement are afraid of the consequences of the fact that U.S. mass information organs, avid for rumors, have focused their attention almost exclusively on the arguments of the opponents of such an agreement, asserting, in particular, that it will weaken America. "Why the government shows no particular desire to fight the increasing opposition is not yet clear," the author noted.

There are other serious signs too. The other day the New York TIMES mentioned in a report from Washington the possibility that the American side will ask for a further postponement in completing these talks. The near future will show how things stand.

The undesirability of marking time at these talks when all the main questions have been agreed is noted by influential figures in the U.S. Congress and elsewhere. A. Cranston, deputy leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate, speaking at a Washington press conference on 11 March, called for the speedy signing of the agreement. He said that new presidential elections are approaching in the United States. At these elections narrow party calculations often overshadow important problems awaiting solutions.

That is how it was during the last U.S. presidential election campaign. At that time President Ford yielded to the bellicose demagoguery of his rivals within the Republican Party and the talks indeed began to mark time.

After the elections he publicly expressed regret about this, but valuable time had been lost, and as a result of such procrastinations, as competent American military observers noted, the United States gained nothing but came up against difficult new problems.

It is reasonable to suggest that if it had not been for such an impasse at these talks through the Americans' fault, the third round, providing for not only limiting the growth of armaments, but also their reduction by both sides, could have already begun.

This development of events is not desired by U.S. circles which are directly or indirectly connected with the military-industrial complex. Whereas some figures from this milieu do not dare to openly oppose the agreement under preparation and try to attack it by putting forward all kinds of "reservations," "amendments" and so forth, others from the same milieu oppose with cynical frankness the very principle of the talks being held between the USSR and the United States. They are unwilling to even hear about any possibility of restraining the arms race.

The "Coalition for Peace Through Strength," created in the United States in Summer 1978, which includes a large number of retired generals, together with the "Committee on the Present Danger," the American Security Council, the "American Conservative League" and other extreme rightwing and militarist organizations rallied by the resources of the big shots in the military business, is waging an intensive campaign to indoctrinate the population, intimidating them with the "Soviet threat."

However, many of these representatives make no ceremony about declaring their aims: They are calling for the United States to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union and on these so-called grounds they are rallying against the strategic arms limitation agreement. This is the chronic relapse to the times of the "cold war" from which certain shortsighted U.S. figures can not free themselves--figures who still cherish calculations of building a policy providing for attempts to pressure our country and other socialist countries. At the same time they should have realized long ago how illusory and vain such calculations are.

The Soviet Union has found the necessary response to every challenge thrown at us in the military sphere. That is how it has been and will be as long as the arsenals are topped up with new destructive means through the fault of the defenders of the arms race.

Reason can and must prevail over rashness. Despite the fact that the treaty prepared at the Soviet-American talks does not accord with our wishes in every respect, it represents a reasonable compromise, is the result of mutual acceptable concessions and takes both sides' mutual interests into account. The Soviet Union unwaveringly believes that the signing and implementation of this agreement would be a great and important step forward on the difficult but responsible path that is cooperation between the USSR and the United States, as the states with the largest military potentials, on reducing the danger of nuclear war and curbing the nuclear arms race.

This was stated once again with the utmost clarity by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev in his 2 March election speech in Moscow; he characterized the new treaty with the United States, if it enters force, as a definite obstacle in the way of the further stockpiling of the most destructive and expensive types of weapons.

This assessment is widely understood in the United States. Ordinary Americans may not grasp all the subtleties of the agreement being prepared, but they do know one simple truth: Without strategic arms limitation their taxes will increase still further and inflation will rage still more fiercely. Opinion polls in the country provide evidence of invariable support for this agreement from the overwhelming majority of Americans. Certain U.S. politicians who oppose the intensification of the arms race are expressing disappointment that the question of reducing strategic facilities is not being discussed at the present stage of the talks. [paragraph continues]

But before building a bridge, it is necessary to construct the piers. The most vital problem now is to prevent the further intensification of the arms race. It is only when a limit, a boundary has been placed on this race that it will be possible realistically to discuss the question of reducing the most destructive types of weapons, and certainly not before then, and so criticism of the SALT-II agreement from that viewpoint cannot be regarded as a good turn to the cause of real disarmament. It is grist to the mill of the fierce opponents of detente and disarmament.

It must be said that certain Republican Party figures who had a straightforward attitude toward the previous strategic arms limitation agreements are now criticizing the present Washington administration over the current talks with the Soviet Union because of narrow party considerations and the approaching U.S. presidential election campaign. For instance, former U.S. Secretary of State H. Kissinger advocates that Washington link these talks with other problems in view of the "USSR's behavior" in Africa and the Near East.... Just why are U.S. figures who themselves once conducted these talks now adopting such untenable positions?

New York TIMES commentator Tom Wicker recently recalled an elementary truth: Any U.S. figure who advocates adding a new twist to the arms spiral in no way increases his chances with the voters.

The U.S. Congress now presents a complex and contradictory picture from the viewpoint of the correlation and disposition of forces there over the problem of strategic arms limitation. On the one hand there is the pressure of the powerful military-industrial complex. On the other there is the broad, sincere interest of the American masses in reaching a new agreement with the Soviet Union. Feeling this dual, mutually exclusive pressure, many congressmen are not adopting clear positions but are choosing to bide their time. Certain of the senators who visited Moscow recently found something "dubious" about the fact that in Moscow they were told of the Soviet Union's interest in the speediest reaching of an understanding at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks now being held. One wonders just what these figures expected: that in Moscow they would be talked into opposing the curbing of the nuclear arms race? Or do they believe that in contemporary international relations it is right to seek advantages for oneself to the detriment of the other side?

The attempts to misinterpret the Soviet side's statements regarding the serious consequences for peace if there is no new strategic arms limitation agreement are equally odious. "They are trying to intimidate us into supporting the ratification of the treaty..." certain senators assert. "Just take a look around, gentlemen!" One feels like reminding these figures who have forgotten the statements being made about this by leading statesmen in Western Europe and by the U.S. President himself warning of the dangers of frustrating this agreement.

F. Church, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, dotted the "i's" in a recent interview by declaring that the SALT-II treaty "concerns the key question of the continued existence of our civilizations" and that "it would be a monstrous mistake" to stop the process that has been started.

That is also the opinion of the governments of many West European countries. "We support the SALT-II talks in view of the general political situation in the world," FRG Chancellor H. Schmidt has declared. According to him, the FRG agrees with the French and the English on this issue because the "failure of the talks would have far-reaching political and psychological consequences...."

All those in the United States who are aiming poisoned arrows at the new strategic arms limitation agreement should remember that our country has been and will continue to be capable of protecting the vital interests of its own security--as well as that of its allies--under any circumstances and irrespective of the outcome of the current debate in the United States. Along with all sober-minded people interested in strengthening the foundations of universal peace the Soviet people desire a successful conclusion of the Soviet-American talks and are confident that these talks will yield good fruit for the benefit of all mankind.

AUSTRIAN CONFERENCE OF WORLD SCIENTISTS FOR DISARMAMENT

LD022218 Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Vienna, April 2, TASS--TASS correspondent Igor Maslov reports:

Scientists of the world, whatever their political views, can and must make an active contribution to the struggle of the peoples for ending the arms race, for lasting peace, a press conference was told here today by the president of the World Federation of Scientific Workers, Professor Eric Burhop, of Britain. The press conference was dedicated to the results of an international scientific symposium on "Problems of Transferring Military Industry to Civilian Production." It was organized at Tulbinger Kogel in lower Austria by the International Peace Institute and the WFSW.

Participants in this representative forum of scientists from 20 countries, Eric Burhop underlined, expressed the unanimous view that the problem of switching military facilities for peaceful needs is extremely topical under contemporary conditions, when allocations for military purposes have reached a tremendous scale. Scientific and technical thought must be directed not at elaborating new kinds of mass annihiliation weapons, but at creating material values to benefit the peoples. He noted that in socialist countries with their planned system of economy tremendous efforts are being made in order to achieve real disarmament. Professor Burhop spoke also of the important role the press has to play in exposing the military-industrial complex in the West, which is accelerating the arms race.

The vice-president of the International Institute for Peace Professor Gerhard Kade, having noted the positive results of the symposium, said the questions it discussed are closely related to the process of further deepening international detente. The participation in the forum of representatives of the UN and its specialized agencies, and a number of trade unions of Western countries bears testimony to the unabating importance of switching military production of peaceful rails.

It is necessary to do everything, G. Kade said, for achieving a Soviet-American SALT-II agreement, and concrete results at the Vienna negotiations on the reciprocal reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe.

Trade unions, which unite hundreds of millions of working people vitally interested in peace, detente and secure jobs, are also called upon to make a weighty contribution to this noble cause.

The documents of the symposium will be sent to different UN bodies with the aim of invigorating the struggle for disarmament.

TASS REPORTS RESULTS OF CEMA EXECUTIVE MEETING IN MOSCOW

LD301548 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--The 89th session of the Executive Committee of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance has been held in Moscow. It examined the course of implementation of the decisions of the 32nd CEMA session. It was pointed out that work on long-term target-oriented programs for cooperation in the field of production of industrial consumer goods, in the development of transport links and ensuring these links with the necessary machines and equipment is developing in keeping with the dates outlined.

A general agreement has been signed on cooperation in the construction by joint efforts in the USSR's territory of the Khmelnitskiy atomic power plant and an agreement on cooperation in the construction and operation of 750 kilovolt power transmission line [from] Khmelnitskiy atomic power plant (USSR)--Rzeszow (Poland) and the Rzeszow substation.

Attaching great significance to the development of international cooperation in the field of environmental protection, the Executive Committee approved the draft agreement on cooperation between CEMA and the U.N. environmental protection organisation in the implementation of a relevant program. There was a useful exchange of views at the meeting in connection with the holding of the fifth UNCTAD session.

In connection with the appeal by the People's Republic of Angola on assistance to it in the development of agriculture, the Executive Committee approved the program for cooperation of the CEMA member countries concerned in this field. Representatives of the CEMA member countries concerned discussed questions pertaining to material aid to the People's Republic of Kampuchea and further actions in this direction.

The Executive Committee has examined questions in connection with the proposal of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance on a new meeting between CEMA and EEC delegations for constructive work for drawing up a joint agreement on the basis of the projects, which the sides once exchanged and with due regard for decisions mutually acceptable to both sides, for which the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance comes out. The Executive Committee has adopted on behalf of CEMA member countries--Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, the Republic of Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, the USSR and Czechoslovakia--a statement in connection with the Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Statement on PRC Aggression

LD301550 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The CEMA Executive Council, at its 89th session in Moscow, has adopted a statement in connection with the Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The statement stresses that China's aggressive actions, which were unleashed with the encouragement of certain imperialist circles, crudely flout international law and create a serious threat to the cause of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and in the whole world. Chinese forces must be totally withdrawn from Vietnamese land behind the historically created borders which both states have agreed to respect, and the provocative expansionist actions by the Beijing ruling circles against the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea must cease. Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, the Republic of Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, having taken measures to render urgent aid to the fraternal Vietnamese people, declare their firm intention to continue to promote in all ways the just cause of the Vietnamese people in their courageous struggle against aggression for the freedom of their country and for the implementation of the inalienable right to independence and peaceful development on the road of socialism.

PRAVDA COMMENTATOR ON OPEC DECISION TO RAISE OIL PRICES

LD021335 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Arkadiy Maslennikov commentary: "OPEC Decision"]

[Text] At its conference held in Geneva OPEC decided to raise oil prices by approximately 9 percent from 1 April this year. As is known, last December the OPEC countries approved a program of phased price increases during 1979 of 14.5 percent. However, due to the curtailment of Iranian oil production, a perceptible shortage of oil on the world market has come about. This was used by the Western monopolies to inflate their prices for all grades of the liquid fuel.

In such a situation, OPEC in effect had no choice but to bring its prices into line with the actual state of affairs on the oil market. This was achieved through a single price increase instead of the phased increase envisaged in the previously approved program. But since the new price of $14.54 a barrel actually turns out to be below the real price, individual OPEC members are given the right to add extra surcharges of $1.2, depending on the state of the market.

As expected, the OPEC decision caused "irritation" in the capitals of the Western states. An official spokesman for the State Department in Washington called it "untimely and unjustified." The U.S. Treasury Department and Department of Energy are deliberately inflating the supposed losses that the U.S. Treasury will suffer as a result of the increase in the cost of imported oil.

In this connection, the pages of the U.S. press are once again carrying provocative statements by militant politicians and generals playing at politics to the effect that since the Arab members of OPEC are waging an "economic war against the West," the United States should think of a "military solution" to the oil problem. It is from this viewpoint that plans to step up the U.S. military presence in the Near East are being studied with greater and greater frequency.

However, it is evident that talk of an "economic war" and the whipping up of tension over the latest OPEC decisions are completely groundless. Commenting on these decisions, objective Western observers note that in essence these are just a countermeasure aimed against the speculative machinations of the oil monopolies.

In the present international situation, when certain imperialist circles are trying to impose the U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian separate deal on the Arab peoples under the guise of a settlement of the Near East problem, the OPEC action is acquiring a political ring to it. It shows that the peoples of the developing countries are becoming more and more resolved to defend their vital interests and that they have the potential to do so.

'TRADE WAR' WILL DOMINATE UPCOMING TOKYO ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

LD301519 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent I. Latyshev dispatch: "Increasing Friction"]

[Text] Tokyo--The first working meeting of representatives of the governments of seven of the capitalist world's industrially developed countries has been held here. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the fifth "economic conference" of those countries' heads of government to be held in Tokyo this summer. Government representatives from the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy, as well as representatives of the Common Market, participated in the meeting.

Newspapers report that as a result of the meeting preliminary agreement was reached on discussing the capitalist world's economic difficulties at the upcoming conference.

Commenting on the results of the meeting, Japanese observers believe that the debate at the upcoming conference will revolve around questions connected with the present unhappy state of Japan's economic relations with the United States and West European countries. The growth of anti-Japanese feeling is noted with alarm in this connection.

As follows from statistics published here, the deficit in the U.S. balance of trade with Japan achieved "record" dimensions last year, 1978, totaling $11.6 billion. "Record" dimensions were also attained by the deficit in the West European Common Market countries' balance of trade with Japan, which amounted to more than $6 billion in 1978. The ever increasing biases in Japan's trade balances with the capitalist world's leading countries are providing grounds to accuse the Japanese side of "dishonestly" conducting its commercial operations, of pursuing a "dumping policy" in the markets of third countries and secretly resisting the importing of foreign goods into Japan's domestic market.

All these disagreements connected with the profound contradictions inherent in economic relations among the capitalist world's leading countries are standing out in still greater relief in connection with the upcoming conference. The recent talks between a participant in the meeting--the U.S. President's special representative Owen--and Japanese Foreign Minister S. Sonoda can serve as an example of this. During these talks the American guest demanded in the form of an ultimatum that the Japanese Government revise Japan's customs policy without delay and remove the existing obstacles to imports of American goods into Japan.

In the hope of easing Washington's pressure, Tokyo government circles are now maneuvering strenuously, assuring the Americans of their readiness to hold talks on controversial issues.

Increasing friction has also been observed in recent meetings between representatives of the Japanese Government and statesmen from West European countries. During these meetings the West European leaders have unambiguously expressed to the Japanese visitor their dissatisfaction with the present state of trade relations with Japan, at the same time voicing the insistent wish that the Japanese side take appropriate measures in the next few months to correct the biases in the trade balance with West European countries, which are having an extremely bad effect on the general course of those countries' economic development. W. Haferkamp, vice president of the EC Commission, recently arrived in Tokyo with the same demands, so Tokyo newspapers report.

The intensification of the "trade war" that has been observed in Japan's economic relations with the United States and West European countries is undoubtedly creating difficulties in the preparations for the next conference of the seven countries' heads of government. Many politicians here are not at all sure of the benefit of the upcoming meeting of the heads of government of the "Big Seven," during which the Japanese will have to face a united front of opponents of Tokyo's policy.

Many skeptics are voicing doubt as to the conference participants' ability to find positive solutions in accordance with the interests of all sides. And all this clearly reveals the spuriousness of the show of unity which the official representatives of the seven above-mentioned governments tried to display at their preparatory meeting. Verbal unity and actual dissension--this will evidently be the essence of the upcoming "economic conference" in Tokyo this time, too.

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES' UN STATEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT AID CITED

LD301314 Moscow TASS in English 1253 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

["U.N.: Stand of the Socialist Countries"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, March 30, TASS--The scheduled session of the ad hoc committee of the U.N. General Assembly has closed. It discussed measures concerning food problems and agricultural development. The countries of the socialist community (Bulgaria, the Belorussian SSR, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia, Poland, the USSR, Czechoslovakia and the Ukrainian SSR) issued a statement at the session saying that they fully understand the difficulties encountered by the developing countries. Combatting hunger is one of the most acute problems of the present.

We are forced to note with regret, says the statement, that the measures that were taken until recently, have not wrought any radical changes in the food situation of most of the developing countries. Hunger remains a quite real and wide-spread phenomenon. Food production in the developing countries is under the adverse effect of economic crises, galloping inflation, the aftermaths of the acitivity of the imperialist monopolies and other phenomena inherent in the system of world capitalist economy. The socialist countries are of course, not responsible for it in any way.

The statement stresses that the resolution of the socioeconomic problems, including the food problem, facing the developing countries can be real, only in conditions of consolidating universal peace and security of peoples, ending the arms race, in conditions of disarmament. In this connection, the delegation of the socialist countries once again drew attention of the world community to the Soviet Union's proposal that states having big economic and military potentials should reach agreement on specific dimensions for reducing their military budgets in absolute terms by the same margin in the course of a three year period and appropriation by each of such states of concrete sums for aid to the developing countries.

In the opinion of socialist states, the settlement of the food issue is connected in the first place with the measures taken by the developing countries themselves in the field of development of productive forces in agriculture and self-sufficiency in food. The drawing of external rescurces may bring the desired results only when an appropriate base is created and the necessary progressive socioeconomic transformations are carried out.

Additional resources shall come in the first place at the expense of the imperialist powers and monopolies, which continue exploiting the natural and man-power resources of the developing countries. Therefore, the socialist community considers it just that the developed capitalist states, which are responsible for the disastrous economic situation in most of the developing countries, should give them the necessary aid. Making claims of this kind to the socialist countries is unfounded.

On their part, the socialist countries contribute in every way possible to the efforts of the developing world aimed at resolving the problems of economic progress and strengthening their national independence. They are working for broadening mutually beneficial and stable trade, economic and scientific-technical ties with them both on a bilateral and multilateral basis. The socialist states are further ready to give assistance to the developing countries concerned in the forms contributing towards their own socioeconomic system, that have proved their viability and effectiveness, accord with their potentials and have been recognized by the developing countries themselves.

WEST CONTINUES COLD WAR PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AGAINST EAST

LD310750 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

[Viktor Glazunov commentary]

[Text] There is a specific type of propaganda called psychological warfare. The Soviet Union is opposed to this type of propaganda in principle and lately the Soviet media has again pointed out how impermissible it is. Here is what our commentator Viktor Glazunov writes on this subject.

The mass media play an enormous role. There is no gainsaying this axiom. The whole point is whom do the media serve? On the one hand, they control the speech of reason and kindness and promote peace and mutual understanding between nations. But on the other hand they can also spread the venom of strife between nations and that is psychological warfare. We in the Soviet Union have more than once pointed to the unseemly role of such broadcasting stations as the Voice of America, Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe. I lump them together because in the reorganized propaganda service of the United States, the government-operated Voice of America has been placed, as you might put it, under one umbrella with the once supposedly private Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe.

To that [word indistinct] of course, these two stations, based in Federal Germany, have from the outset been operated by the American Central Intelligency Agency. A present Federal German Government minister, Hans-Jochen Vogel, at one time called Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty products of the cold war. Today their programs are coordinated with those of the Voice of America. This coordination is effected by a specially instituted council for International Broadcasting.

But perhaps the role of these radio voices has changed with the reorganization of the American propaganda service? Now, a circular drafted by John Critchlow, who heads one of the council's departments, instructs Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, and hence the Voice of America, since it coordinates its programs with them, to undermine the authority of the socialist system and to ferment distrust between socialist countries. All this is completely in the spirit of the cold war. It is, so to speak, psychological warfare in its pure form. It makes use of everything--misinformation, slander and outright lies. All this is dangerous because it poisons the political atmosphere, strikes at trust between states and creates a situation conducive to the operation of forces hostile to peace and mutual understanding.

Take the hobbyhorse of the psychological war zealots, the fuss about a Soviet threat. This is nothing but a propaganda screen for fanning the arms race, that is pushing ahead the material preparations for war. The psychological war launched by certain propaganda services in the West runs counter to the relaxation of international tension and to cooperation between states. It is a flagrant violation of the Helsinki Final Act signed by the leaders of 35 countries, among them the United States. In the final act it is stated bluntly that the international dissemination of information should contribute to the strengthening of peace and understanding among peoples and to the spiritual enrichment of the human personality and it is to take place with due observance of the principles of sovereign equality and noninterference in internal affairs.

WASHINGTON REVIVES 'GUNBOAT POLICY' IN MIDEAST

LD020847 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[A. Mozgovoy article: "Another 'Show of Muscle': How the United States Is Creating a 5th Fleet in the Indian Ocean"]

[Text] The loss of Iran, which for many years was U.S. imperialism's main military and political bridgehead in the Near and Middle East, and which at Washington's bidding acted as policeman in the region, the revolution in Afghanistan and the Arab states' opposition to a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal gave rise to a state of near panic on the banks of the Potomac. In the U.S. capital they hastily began rebuilding the Near East strategy and there was a sharp escalation of U.S. diplomatic and military efforts to restore its influence in the region. U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown made a double-time tour of the Near East. His aim was to throw together a new military--METO [Middle East Treaty Organization]--organization. However, only Israel and Egypt favored the Pentagon chief's plan. The New York TIMES was forced to state that "Saudi Arabia was cool toward the idea of setting up a U.S. military base and other forms of official military cooperation with the United States."

When Brown's mission failed to achieve the desired success Washington could think of nothing better than reviving the old "gunboat policy." Under the pretext of "U.S. support for Saudi Arabia and the other moderate Arab states" a U.S. Navy formation consisting of the aircraft carrier Constellation, several missile-carrying vessels and submarines were sent to the Arabian Sea. Other attempts are also being made to turn the events in the Near East in the direction U.S. imperialism wants.

There was recently an armed encounter on the border between the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen). Talks on a peaceful settlement of the conflict are currently being held through the mediation of other Arab countries. Practical steps toward such a settlement are already being taken. It is at precisely this moment that the United States has begun rushing military supplies worth about $500 million to North Yemen. The transfer of marine subunits to the Yemen Arab Republic "to protect U.S. weapons arriving at airfields" is also envisaged.

It is clear that the United States needed a "show of muscle" and the militarist hysteria to deliberately stir up an intestine war on the Arabian Peninsula with a view to involving Saudi Arabia in the conflict between the two Yemen states and breaking the solidarity of the Arabs opposing the treacherous Egyptian-Israeli deal. It was no accident that a Washington administration spokesman admitted that the conflict in southern Arabia "has become a 'testing ground' for the Carter administration's new policy for defending Western interests in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula."

What is the essence of this "new policy"? It was set out in recent television interviews given by U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown and Energy Secretary J. Schlesinger. The "new policy" appears to consist of "using U.S. military might in the Near East to safeguard the vital interests" of the United States. In other words, aside from trying to put together a regional military bloc, the Pentagon is counting on considerably expanding its own military presence.

According to the schemes of Washington's strategists, the naval formation headed by the aircraft carrier Constellation should form the nucleus of a future operational 5th fleet in the Indian Ocean, which together with the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean and the 7th Fleet in the Pacific "will encompass" the entire southern part of the Asian Continent.

That is to say, following the disintegration of the CENTO and SEATO blocs the United States is pinning its hopes in this vast region largely on its own power.

New naval bases are being prepared and base locations sought for the new 5th fleet which, it is reported, will comprise some 40-50 vessels. Diego Garcia Island in the Chagos archipelago--almost in the center of the Indian Ocean--is to be the main naval base. A pier able to take any vessel, an airfield with a 3,600-meter long runway, hangars, a communications center and ammunition and fuel depots have already been built there. "The base on Diego Garcia," the New York TIMES writes, "which was once the navy's communications center, has in the last few years become a full-fledged navy and airforce support installation." Israel has offered the use of the port of Sharm ash-Shaykh on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula as a 5th fleet base location. The Oman sultanate's regime is willing to allow its coast to be used for this same purpose.

The plans to create a 5th fleet have delighted U.S. "hawks." Senator H. Jackson declared that the fleet "will have in its sights" the entire Near East with its vast oil reserves.

However, its task will not only be to "insure the safety" of oil shipments and to police the Near and Middle East. In the Indian Ocean the Pentagon plans to deploy the latest nuclear submarines, armed with Trident strategic missiles aimed at the Soviet Union.

As Western observers point out, the "China factor" has played a part in the intensified U.S. activity in the Indian Ocean. A report by the Rand Corporation, a U.S. research organization, states: "A successful China policy can do much to help reduce the expense and risk involved in fulfilling U.S. commitments in Southeast and Northeast Asia." The United States is shifting a proportion of its "commitments" in those regions onto the Maoists and in so doing is to a considerable extent leaving the U.S. war machine free to carry out its imperialist intrigues in southern Asia.

The creation of the 5th fleet is contrary to the spirit of the UN declaration on turning the Indian Ocean into a peace zone. The United States is stalling and, as demonstrated by the latest developments, effectively wrecking the Soviet-U.S. talks on limiting and subsequently reducing military activity in the Indian Ocean. And yet the U.S. President has made repeated public declarations on his determination to work toward demilitarizing the Indian Ocean.

The U.S. naval buildup off southern Asia and the Near East is provoking the legitimate alarm of countries in the region. "The expansion of a military and naval presence in the Indian Ocean", Indian Foreign Minister A.B. Vajpayee declared, "could have adverse political and economic repercussions which would only intensify tension in this vitally important part of the world."

The "gunboat policy" which Washington is trying to revive is ultimately futile. Gone are the days when Uncle Sam could impose his will on other peoples by means of the big stick. Sober-minded Americans also see this. A letter from (U. Kelsi), who lived in the Near East for many years, was published in the Washington POST. It stated that the U.S. administration "is making the same old mistakes." "It should come as no surprise to anyone if such a policy brings chaos and ends in failure," (Kelsi) stresses. Those elaborating the "new" U.S. imperialist strategy, which is essentially merely the old one revamped, would do well to heed this observation.

U.S. STEPPING UP CREATION OF NEW STRATEGIC WEAPONRY

LD312122 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0945 GMT 31 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Washington, 31 March--TASS correspondent Yuriy Levchenko reports:

The United States is stepping up creation of the latest systems of strategic weaponry. As the U.S. press reports, citing reliable sources, the Senate Armed Services Committee has approved in a closed session a government request for allocations of $265 million to speed up development of the new MX intercontinental ballistic missile. These funds are contained in a bill allocating the Pentagon an extra $2.2 billion in the present fiscal year.

The creation of this missile, which has been called upon to replace the Minuteman missile now in the U.S. arsenals, is being urged by the U.S. military-industrial complex, which hopes to derive huge profits from its production. Estimates indicate that this program will cost the American taxpayer a minimum of $30 billion. The U.S. Government has not yet adopted an official decision about the manufacture of the MX. But this delay, as observers point out, has been caused by purely "technical reasons"--quarrels within the Pentagon about the variants of developing production of this missile.

According to AP, the White House is leaning towards "air-basing" the missile--that is, installing it on heavy bombers which would patrol around the clock. This variant is being opposed by the U.S. Air Force command, which prefers a mobile ground system with many silos.

AP also reports that in the course of the debates many legislators, including Senator H. Jackson, an active lobbyist for the arms industry monopolies, insisted on "committing" the administration to proceed to the development of a new, even bigger intercontinental ballistic missile. Under their pressure the committee has asked the administration "not to exclude the possibility of making" such a missile.

UKRAINE'S LYASHKO RECEIVES AMBASSADOR TOON 27 MARCH

AU271526 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 27 Mar 79 AU

[Text] Lyashko, Ukrainian Council of Ministers chairman, today received Toon, U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the USSR, who is now in Kiev, and had a conversation with him.

Present at the conversation were Boyko, administrator of Ukrainian Council of Ministers Affairs; Kravets, Ukrainian deputy minister of foreign affairs; Gordenok, Presidium chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Commerce and Industry Chamber; (Sword), chief of the advanced group of the U.S. Consulate General in Kiev, and other officials.

BRIEFS

U.S. EXHIBITION IN KIEV -- "Medical Equipment-79" is the name of an exhibition that opened in Kiev on 26 March, organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce with the cooperation of the USSR and Ukrainian SSR commerce and industry chambers. American firms are displaying instruments used by cardiologists. Learned U.S. specialists will read reports on the clinical application of the medical equipment displayed. Toon, U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, addressed the exhibition opening ceremony. [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Mar 79 AU]

MORE ON CONFERENCE ON MAOIST 'FALSIFICATIONS OF HISTORY'

LD302002 Moscow TASS in English 1804 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--A scientific conference was held here on problems of struggle against Maoist falsifications of history. It was sponsored by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the Academy of Social Sciences under the CPSU Central Committee. Taking part in the conference were prominent Soviet and foreign scholars and party functionaries, representatives of the Moscow public.

The opening speech was made by secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Rusakov.

An acute ideological struggle rages unremittingly in the modern world over the key events that determined the countenance of our epoch, he said. The 20th century is an era of the October Revolution, an era of the assertion of real socialism in a big group of countries in the world. It is precisely now when real socialism is increasingly determining the course of world development, that our class opponent is intensifying attempts to smear it by any means, to distort the truth about the assertion of international socialist relations. This is the job of quite a big number of bourgeois scholars and since recently this is being done with particular zeal by the Beijing falsifiers of history.

As to the Beijing slanderers, they are operating with particular perfidy. History is being distorted under the guise of sociological studies, and the pseudoscientific output is often camouflaged with Marxist-Leninist phraseology. What particularly leaps to the eye in this unseemly activity of the Maoists are the attempts to "scientifically" substantiate China's territorial claims to neighbouring countries.

History is full of precedents showing that each aggressor usually started preparations for aggresssion precisely with the so-called cartographic war, with a historical, geographical and other, sometimes veiled, justification of its claims to the lands of others. This type of action, as practice shows, has been included by Beijing in its arsenal. The aggression against India late in the 1950's and early in the 1960's is just an example of this.

China's recent armed attack on Vietnam with the unquestionable complicity of imperialist forces in this criminal action created a situation in which the strength of universal peace was subjected to a serious trial. To this day Beijing is not renouncing the whipping up of tension and armed provocations.

Beijing's aggression against Socialist Vietnam, Konstantin Rusakov said further, gave bourgeois propaganda a pretext to launch a big campaign with the aim of proving that wars are generated not only by imperialism but also by socialism. This ideological subversion must be resolutely disproved. In reality, neither as a teaching nor as a political system does socialism bear any responsibility and of course cannot bear any whatsoever responsibility for the attack by Chinese troops on Vietnam. That bandit attack was prepared and motivated not by socialist ideas but by Maoism, an ideology of great-power chauvinism and hegemonism.

Addressing the conference, the head of the Vietnamese delegation Dao Duy Tung noted that throughout more than half a century the Soviet Union has always given support to the revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese people and that the present timely and effective actions of the USSR sounded as a stern warning to the Chinese invaders and their imperialist allies.

The conference was also addressed by scholars from Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

MASS UNREST, OPPOSITION TO RESETTLEMENT IN PRC DESCRIBED

LD301526 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1330 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Antigovernment actions in Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and other big cities have pushed up tensions within China. The local press stresses reprisals against the activists of protest movements demanding democratic rights for the people, respect for human rights, better living conditions and an end to the forced resettlement campaign. The authorities rate these actions as a violation of public order. The BEIJING DAILY newspaper in the capital has called for strict observance of public order and drew attention to what it describes as counterrevolutionary elements. The army newspaper in Shanghai has admitted many people in that city described as illegal the recent official notification by the local public security department. The notification provides for reprisals against the activists of the movement for democracy and the authors of wall posters containing political demands.

Reports from Shanghai speak of arrests. Similar measures have been announced in Hangzhou. Informed sources in Hong Kong say the security forces in a number of Chinese cities are being reinforced by regular army units from nearby military districts. Observers link these measures to the authorities being seriously worried over its position in many cities. It is pointed out that the security forces are being reinforced on the eve of the Ching Ming holiday, the day when the nation remembers the deceased. It is marked in early April every year. Three years ago on 6th April, 1976, the Ching Ming was marked by mass antigovernment demonstrations that led to bloody clashes with troops and police. Foreign observers say there is a possibility of a repetition of those events this year in view of intensifying discontent with official policy.

Chinese mass media appeals to exiled youths not to think of return to towns and to stay in the countryside. The radio station in Heilong [as heard] Province perceives what it calls a "come back home" infection among the resettled young people. It is a sign that the young people protest against the plans by the authorities to carry out this forced resettlement campaign. Young people stage demonstrations and hold up the traffic. Many flee the places of exile and return to town. Some 800,000 have illegally returned to Shanghai from where over 1 million youths have been resettled within the last decade. The authorities threaten tough measures against the fugitives. This is evidenced from the recent speech by Vice Premier Wang Zhen. He rated youngsters who return to towns and the demands for an end to the exile campaign as hooliganism and debauchery.

Hong Kong police, the day before yesterday, detained 117 young Chinese for trying to cross from China into that British colony. It is the biggest ever single group of Chinese refugees detained. A total of 8,700 Chinese refugees have been arrested in the first months of this year. The figure was 8,200 for the whole of last year. The number of those who succeed in escape from the police barriers is estimated at 3,000 (?per annum). The refugees get to Hong Kong in boats or swim, risking their lives. Most of them are young people who have to leave their country because of the unbearable life conditions and persecution by the authorities. Many of the young refugees are fugitives from exile.

PRC AGGRESSION AGAINST VIETNAM 'NOT ISOLATED INCIDENT'

LD030202 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Excerpts] Nikolay Shishlin looks at the strategy of Beijing: The present leaders of China are calling now for new military alliances against the Soviet Union.

Such calls came for example from Deng Xiaoping on his recent visit to the United States and I think we have all become aware of the fundamentally anti-Soviet nature of the Chinese policies. On the other hand, the Beijing leaders are also fully aware of the fact that the Soviet Union can protect its interests in a contingency of any kind.

There is also another aspect of Chinese foreign policy which is not advertised by Beijing, even despite the fact that it takes a very important place in the general Chinese strategy. There are now more than 20 million ethnic Chinese living abroad, and most of them are concentrated in Southeast Asia. Members of the Chinese communities in many of these countries hold key positions in economic life. The Beijing leaders regard these Chinese communities in different countries as a base for expanding their own influence in Asia.

One must also mention for example Beijing's overtures to Taiwan. The Taiwan authorities are invited to establish contacts, and people from the island are invited to visit Mainland China. The Beijing leaders even promise to preserve the capitalist system on Taiwan and to give it an autonomy if it decides to join the Chinese state. It is true that the Beijing leaders are nervous about the United States maintaining broad links, including military links with Taiwan despite the breaking of their formal diplomatic relations. However, the Chinese sensitivity on this score is being deliberately exaggerated because Beijing feels that by playing up its hostility towards the Soviet Union it'll finally make the Americans accept some kind of an alliance between China and Taiwan.

And it is not just ethnic Chinese that are used by Beijing as a tool of its policy in Southeast Asia. Beijing also exerts pressure on its neighbours by infiltrating armed bands on their territory. All this leads one to conclude that the Chinese aggression against Vietnam is not an isolated incident but is part of a whole strategy which includes territorial expansion and military pressure against the countries of Southeast Asia. The present limited scale of these operations does not mean they are harmless, especially if one regards them in the light of the general Chinese strategy. Viewed as a whole the policies of the present Chinese leaders are clearly aimed at large scale expansion in Asia.

This Chinese policy to a large extent is just a matter of time. By meeting Chinese leaders' requests for advanced weapons the Western countries bring nearer the time when China will find itself strong enough to attack its neighbors. One should also point out that there is usually no limit to great power ambitions. There is not much substance in the talk about some common American and Chinese or Western and Chinese strategic interests. There is not much meaning in this talk unless the United States and other Western countries want to torpedo international relaxation, to return to the cold war era or to something even worse.

PRC'S 'INEVITABILITY OF WAR' PROPAGANDA DENOUNCED

LD021330 Moscow TASS in English 1310 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

["Beijing Real Threat"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, April 2, TASS--TASS political analyst Igor Orlov writes: Tuned to a militaristic wave, Beijing propaganda systematically advocates the Maoist thesis of "war's inevitability". The newspaper JIEFANGJUN BAO, organ of the People's Liberation Army of China, again came out with "corroborations" of this thesis. It devoted an editorial article to the subject. "It will hardly be possible to avoid a world war," the newspaper claims. "The last twenty years of this century will not always be peaceful," it adds.

Where, in the opinion of the newspaper, does the danger of war come from? The Maoist always have [as received] a time-worn rubber stamped answer to this question on hand: From the Soviet Union. But if Beijing had claimed persistently till of late that the main military danger was looming over Western Europe and, therefore, the aggressive NATO bloc should make even more vigorous efforts to build up its armed potential, it was now decided in the Chinese capital to change the worn-out record. Today, you see, Beijing's propaganda say, the Soviet Union, "having completed its war preparations in Europe", has started the same kind of preparations in Asia, and, consequently, the "main danger now looms over China."

However, the gross fabrications of Beijing propaganda can hardly divert the attention of public opinion from the true facts, from the concrete threat which emanates from those who are possessed for quite a time now by their expansionist plans, who frankly advocates the thesis of "war's inevitability".

In conformity with this line, Beijing comes out in the United Nations and outside it against any concrete measures to ensure and strengthen international peace and security. For the same reason one would seek in vain the Maoists' signature under any of the existing disarmament treaties, backed by the overwhelming majority of states.

The Beijing leaders proceed from the militaristic concepts of the "great helmsman". In his days Mao Zedong had said: "Our key item of our program is war", and "if a half of mankind perishes during the war, this is of no consequence". On another occasion he had asserted that war "purges us of everything nasty".

Mao's successors are loyal to this man-hating concept. Deng Xiaoping himself said: "World peace cannot last a whole generation's lifetime....every generation shall have its own war".

These pronouncements are in full agreement with the great-power doctrine of turning China as quickly as possible into a mighty military power capable of translating into reality of numerous Beijing's claims to many countries. The Chinese militarists have proved their readiness to gamble with the destinies of the world by their foul aggression against Socialist Vietnam. And although the presumptuous invaders were taught a severe lesson there is no doubt at all that the Beijing adventurers will not calm down.

It is common knowledge that Mao Zedong instructed his henchmen: "You must get hold of Southeast Asia, cost what it may, including South Vietnam, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore...such a region as Southeast Asia is very rich, it has a wealth of natural resources, it deserves the spendings on its acquisition...."

So far the Beijing Mandarins are triggering off regional conflicts. However, the ambitious plans, linked with the so-called program of the "four modernizations", which lays stress on a stepped up boosting of military potential, have the purpose of giving the advocates of the theory of "war's inevitability" a free hand on a global scale. And far-sighted political and public leaders are perfectly right when they arrive at the conclusion that by their theory, policies and practices the present Beijing leadership has turned China into a source of international tensions, into a potential seat of a world war.

AGREEMENT REACHED AT USSR-JAPAN FISHERY TALKS IN MOSCOW

OW020635 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 31 Mar 79 OW

[By station reporter Konstantin (Uskov)]

[Text] The first session of the Soviet-Japanese Commission on Fishing ended after a 10-day meeting in Moscow. This newly organized Soviet-Japanese Commission on Fishing has been inaugurated in accordance with a fishery cooperation accord signed in April last year between the Soviet Union and Japan. A wide range of issues were discussed at the session. A protocol--the final document of the session--was signed yesterday at Leningradskaya Hotel in Moscow. After the protocol was signed, the heads of both delegations delivered short speeches.

Head of the Soviet delegation, Professor Zaitsev, a collegium member of the Ministry of Fish Industry, said in his speech: [Begin recording in Russian fading into Japanese translation]

The first session of the Soviet-Japanese Commission on Fishing marks a new stage in developing fishery relations between the two countries. The session has been conducted in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and succeeded in reaching several constructive decisions. We adopted a plan for scientific-technical cooperation in 1979. The plan calls for both sides to exchange information regarding main fishery research tendencies and published data. We also set forth basic guidelines for exchanging scholars and experts. We also agreed on a plan to [words indistinct] the most important fish species in the northwestern Pacific. During the session, we exchanged opinions on further developing mutual cooperation in the 1980's. Moreover, we worked out rules for operation of the Soviet-Japanese Commission on Fishing--a body designed to lay the groundwork for further cooperation. Both sides showed great concern for increasing fishery resources in the northwestern Pacific. They conferred on how to protect the most important fish species in this region such as salmon, Alaska pollack, sardines, mackeral pike, and mackeral and how to rationally utilize them. [end recording]

Professor Zaitsev then emphasized the importance of various decisions made at the first session to further develop fishery relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. He added that the session was conducted in a traditional atmosphere of goodneighborliness, friendship and mutual understanding.

Iwao Arakatsu, head of the Japanese delegation, president of the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation, highly appraised the achievements of the session in his speech. He said: [Begin recording]

It is solely the result of the wholehearted cooperation of the Soviet delegation that the session has made achievements satisfactory to both Japan and the Soviet Union in a brief period. On behalf of the Japanese delegation I would like to express deep thanks for the cooperation, which I believe will provide the basis for further developing future Japanese-Soviet cooperative relations in the field of fisheries. In this context, it is gratifying that the current session has succeeded in establishing fine cooperative relations through efforts of both Japan and the Soviet Union.

There are many useful and important resources in the northwestern Pacific for both countries. The fishermen of both countries are heavily dependent on them.

Therefore, it is in the interest of both Japan and the Soviet Union to further promote the benefits from these resources through a wide range of cooperation in increasing resources and exchanging experts and opinions. By doing so the two countries will be able to develop their fishery relations and also promote their friendly relations. [End recording]

Thus, the Soviet-Japanese Commission on Fishing ended its first session. Great expectations were placed on this meeting from the outset. It may well be said that the session has duly met these expectations.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL SCORES PRC'S HEGEMONISTIC COURSE

LD021114 Moscow TASS in English 1017 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Tokyo, April 2, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Kuchko reports:

The policy of the ruling circles of China aimed at interference in internal affairs of other states and at unleashing wars constitutes a serious threat to security of Asian peoples, General Secretary of the Japanese Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee T. Akiniwa told the TASS correspondent. This is seen from China's aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Despite numerous noisy statements alleging that the withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnamese territory has been completed, Chinese soldiers continue occupying a number of districts of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Proceeding from their great power expansionist designs, the present Chinese leaders are striving to subjugate the peoples of other countries of South East Asia, to make them follow China's aggressive course, the general secretary said.

Beijing is not averse to using strength against those states that hold independent positions and reject pressure and threats. Besides the aggression against Vietnam, this is shown also by China's increased provocations against the Lao People's Democratic Republic, [and] by its support for the remnants of the defunct anti-popular regime of Pol Pot in Kampuchea. This policy of China does not differ from imperialism's policy, T. Akiniwa said.

Japan's democratic public condemns resolutely China's hegemonistic course and demands an end to the aggression against Vietnam, demands withdrawal of all Chinese troops and an end to interference in internal affairs of other states.

U.S.-JAPANESE MILITARY EXERCISE TAKES PLACE NEAR HONSHU

LD021118 Moscow TASS in English 0907 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Tokyo, April 2, TASS--Joint military exercises of the USA and Japan began in the Pacific Ocean today to the northeast of the Japanese island of Honshu. The exercises involve fighter-planes of naval aviation of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, and air force units of the Japanese "Self-Defence Forces." As was announced here, the aim of the exercises is to practice cooperation between the air force of the two countries in beating off enemy attacks.

The local press expresses concern over frequent joint exercises of the armed forces of the USA and Japan, which are held already for the fourth time over the past several months.

BRIEFS

MPR MINISTER IN ALMA-ATA--At the invitation of the USSR Ministry of Education, a group of Mongolian people's education workers headed by (Rodosagiyn Sandusuren), minister of people's education, has arrived in Alma-Ata. The guests will familiarize themselves with the republic's system of public education, the organization of the training and educational process, labor training at schools and the training of teachers. On 27 March the guests were received in the Kazakh Ministry of Education and spoke to Minister (?Balakhmetov). They thanked him for the warm reception, and for his assistance in the training of cadres. Then the Mongolian comrades visited the Kazakh Abay Teachers Training Insitutte. [Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1513 GMT 27 Mar 79 AU]

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY IN AFGHANISTAN CONTINUES

LD021444 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Calm predominates in Kabul and other towns of Afghanistan. In some places government troops and security forces have proceeded with operations to annihilate separate terrorist bands. The raids by counterrevolutionary elements are increasingly acquiring a character of political banditry. Several armed groups have been sent from Pakistan into Badakhshan Province in the northeast of the country to carry out terrorist acts against the province leadership and members of land reform commissions.

Their actions complicate the land reform campaign against which the former landowners and reactionary clergymen are actively issuing propaganda. As has become known, the son-in-law of the former king of Afghanistan has arrived in Pakistan. He is engaged in training counterrevolutionary groups for action in Afghanistan. The situation in Kunar Province remains complex. Bandit formations which have intruded from Pakistan are concentrating there.

There are reports that in some of the provinces bandits are trying to damage roads, create avalanches and destroy dams. However, the Kabul TIMES stresses that the toadies of imperialism should learn that the Afghan people have unmasked their criminal aims and have exposed their true faces. The working people of Afghanistan will cleanse the country of a small group of traitors who trade the Muslim religion for monetary handouts in the black market of imperialism.

AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL

LD021244 Moscow TASS in English 1101 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, April 2, TASS--The composion of the Supreme Defence Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has been announced. Its chairman is General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Nur Mohammad Taraki. Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hafizollah Amin has been appointed deputy chairman of the Supreme Defence Council.

The Supreme Defence Council includes ministers of defence and interior, head of the state security service, head of the Political Department of the People's Armed Forces, chief of the general staff, and also commanders of the air force and antiaircraft defence forces.

AFGHAN PEOPLE'S PARTY OFFICIALS VISIT UZBEKISTAN

LD020821 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 20 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[UZTAG report: "Guests From Afghanistan"]

[Text] A People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan delegation headed by Abdolhakim Shara'i (Dzhuzdzhani), the member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee responsible for questions of party organizational work, secretary of the Kabul Provincial Party Committee, Afghanistan minister of justice and attorney general, is acquainting itself with Uzbekistan's life.

The delegation comprises: (Ali-Gul Payvand), secretary of the Kabul City Party Regional Committee; (Khoshnazar), member of the party regional committee and chief of the Ministry of Water and Power Administrative Department; (Gulyam Dzheylani), member of the Balkh Provincial Party Committee; and (Ali Shakh), member of the party regional committee and chief of the Ministry of Trade Administrative Department. The guests are being accompanied on their trip by S.Z. Shpilevoy, executive of the CPSU Central Committee.

In the conversations held at the Uzbekistan CP Central Committee, the Tashkentskiy Obkom and Tashkent city's Frunzenskiy Raykom, the guests were acquainted with party organizational activity to implement the decisions of the 25th party congress and the subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, and also were acquainted with the arrangement of organizational and ideological work. The delegation members visited the Uzbekistan Lenin Komsomol and the Uzbekistan Trade Union Council, looked around the Tashkent branch of the Central V.I. Lenin Museum, saw the exhibition of the achievements of the Uzbek SSR national economy and visited the Tashkent textile combine.

The guests from Afghanistan are continuing their acquaintance with the republic.

AFGHAN MINISTER CITES ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS, SOVIET AID

LD022224 Moscow TASS in English 1835 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, April 2, TASS--Real national income of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in the period since the April revolution increased by 2,000 million Afghanis over the preceding period. The overall value of the industrial output also increased substantially, said Minister of Mining and Industry of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan I. Daneshwar in an interview with a TASS correspondent. These accomplishments are the result of the labour enthusiasm of the Afghan people. The April revolution created all the necessary conditions for the economic development of the country. The country is embarking on implementing a five year plan. During this period it will build a copper smelting factory, an oil refinery and complete the construction of the second stage of the nitrogen fertilizer plant as well as build new cotton refining factories and other industrial projects.

Special attention is being given to the development of industry. In the current year capital investments in this field amount to about a third of the budget.

I. Daneshwar highly appreciated the assistance to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by the USSR and the other countries of the socialist community. This assistance he stressed, is disinterested. It will help utilize the natural resources of Afghanistan for the benefit of the Afghan people.

KOSYGIN RECEIVES PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR 3 APRIL

LD031054 Moscow TASS in English 1047 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 3, TASS--Today in the Kremlin, Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, received Sahabzad Yakub Khan, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the USSR, who delivered a message from General Ziaul Haq, the president of Pakistan.

Matters of mutual interest were touched upon in a conversation that took place.

SOVIET JOURNALISTS INTERVIEW CAMBODIA'S HENG SAMRIN

LD022352 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1231 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

["Tasks of Democratic Kampuchea"--TASS headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 2, TASS--The victory of the people's revolution in Kampuchea has become a turning point in the country's history, said Heng Samrin, chairman of the Central Committee of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation [KNUFNS] and chairman of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council, in an interview with a group of Soviet journalists.

He stressed that in its program the KNUFNS has put forward the construction of a peaceful, independent and democratic Kampuchea moving along the socialist road. People's revolutionary councils have been formed in all the provinces and in the villages and districts people's self-government committees have been elected. In the complex conditions of the serious consequences of the rule of the criminal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique our government and local organs of power are resolving the primary tasks of reviving economic life and stabilizing the situation in the country, he said. Questions concerning the settling of the population who are returning to their home areas and supplying them with foodstuffs and prime essentials are being tackled.

Heng Samrin noted that the country is suffering enormous difficulties. The anti-popular Pol Pot regime put the majority of enterprises out of service and annihilated the intelligentsia and skilled workers. Public transport, communications, banking institutions, markets and all money exchanges were destroyed. But these difficulties cannot shake our determination to restore the economy, create normal conditions of life for the population and to build a new society on Kampuchean soil, he stressed.

Through the efforts of Kampuchean workers returning from their places of exile, and with the assistance of Vietnamese specialists, the thermal power station in the capital was put back in service, the airport of Pochentong and the seaport of Kampongsom have resumed operations, and production has been restored at the Tulkok textile factory.

A great deal of work is being carried out to organize agricultural production. Hospitals and schools are opening and cultural life is being revitalized. However, said Heng Samrin, the People's Revolutionary Council is faced with more complex tasks. The KNUFNS and the People's Revolutionary Council are at present drawing up plans for a state structure and the economic development of the country, and work is under way to set up a constitution of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Touching on the foreign policy activity of the government, Heng Samrin stressed that one of the main directions of this activity is the strengthening by every means of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union, Vietnam and other socialist countries. As regards the countries of Southeast Asia, stated Heng Samrin, we have expressed our readiness for good-neighborliness and cooperation on the principles of justice and peaceful coexistence. He resolutely condemned the actions of the Beijing expansionists who have been trying to resurrect the bloody antipopular regime of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary.

In conclusion Heng Samrin expressed the conviction that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Soviet Union will strengthen in the interests of both countries and in the interests of peace.

CONFERENCE ON MILITARY PROBLEMS HELD IN CAMBODIA

LD021642 Moscow TASS in English 1243 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 2, TASS--The national conference on military problems took place in the capital of People's Kampuchea, with representatives of the units and subunits of the regular army, regional armed forces, and militia participating.

Reporting this conference, the first one of its kind after the liberation of the country, the Kampuchean news agency points out that the participants in the conference adopted a resolution on the current situation and the tasks facing the revolutionary armed forces. The conference called on all the commanders and soldiers to firmly stand on guard of the revolutionary gains in the face of intrigues by the enemies of every stripe and to strengthen the spirit of international solidarity with the armed forces of fraternal countries.

PRAVDA CITES THAI PRESS ON CAMBODIAN ATROCITIES

LD301209 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Kalinin dispatch: "Bandits Commit Outrages"]

[Text] Bangkok, 26 March--The Thai press is publishing reports on the continuing atrocities in certain regions of Kampuchea by the remnants of Pol Pot's gangs operating with the support of Beijing, which is by various routes supplying weapons, ammunition and other equipment. Two inhabitants of Changtla village in the Kampuchean province of Battambang, who survived by a miracle, told of a massacre staged by bandits in order to "punish" the peasants for their support of the people's government in the country.

"When 18 fellow-villagers, including 2 women, were returning to the village from the nearby city of Siophon," a peasant called Suen Mot relates, "we were surrounded by a group of armed people dressed in black and wearing Chinese-type caps. They took us to a military camp which, I have learned, is 3 km from the border with Thailand. The next day everyone was taken into the forest. The bandits killed one person after another with ax-blows. When I collapsed after a blow in the face, I could feel that they were attempting to finish me off with a knife. After completing the massacre, they left. I thought I was dying. However, my wounds proved not to be mortal. I stood up and helped a fellow villager to rise. He survived by a miracle--his throat had been cut. After a few hours we succeeded in crossing the border to Thailand."

TASS CITES REPORTS OF CHINESE THREATS TO LAOS

LD012102 Moscow TASS in English 1840 GMT 31 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Vientiane, March 31, TASS--The newspaper XIENG PASASON of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party issued a commentary which severely condemns the Chinese authorities' subversive actions against the People's Democratic Republic of Laos and other countries of Southeast Asia.

The peoples of the three countries of Indochina have always sought to render mutual assistance to one another, to live in peace, never thinking of an aggression against China. But why are the Beijing rulers trying to disturb tranquillity and happiness of the peoples of this part of the world now, the commentary queries. China resorted to an aggressive war against the SRV, began threatening Laos, and created a seat of tension in this part of the world. Such actions cannot be described as goodneighbourly with regard to the peoples of Indochina, XIENG PASASON emphasizes.

Delhi, March 31, TASS--Sisana Sisan, Laotian minister of propaganda, information, culture and tourism, stated in an interview with the Delhi newspaper PATRIOT that China and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency established contacts in the northern areas of Laos with a view to creating a certain free royal government of Laos in that territory.

The minister went on to say that the secret services of the USA and the PRC through their agents encourage and in every way support reactionary pro-Western and pro-Chinese elements in Laos, incite them to an anti-government activity and sabotage, and supply the counter-revolutionaries with arms. About a thousand reactionaries are undergoing training in the south Chinese province of Yunnan, and about 12 Chinese divisions are concentrated on the border with Laos.

Sisana Sisan said in conclusion that the Government of Laos exposed China's plans for provoking a conflict and tried to avoid it. Nevertheless, the Laotian people are getting ready in case of a possible new invasion by Beijing.

USSR COOPERATION AIDS LAO ECONOMIC, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

LD301205 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[Correspondent Ye. Fadeyev report: "Contours of Change"]

[Text] Vientiane--A person traveling through Laos at this time experiences a wonderful feeling. Sometimes you catch yourself thinking that you are moving not only through space, but through time, suddenly witnessing an epoch which you know of only from books...

Thus in Laos I came upon the world of Sholokhov's "virgin soil upturned." Meetings and gatherings of peasants are taking place. They have made their first common decisions on creating cooperatives. The "iron horse"--the wonder and delight of children--has arrived. The masses are convinced of the correctness of their chosen path, but at the same time some isolated individuals who do not believe in the young republic's bright future are displaying skepticism.

The Lao comrades note that the period they are experiencing is indeed similar in some respects to the first years of Soviet power. The difficulties which exist, they say, are not insuperable. The more so as the Lao people are armed with the experience of building the workers and peasants state, the experience of building socialism, which has been accumulated in our country, in other states and in neighboring fraternal Vietnam. The republic's true friends are always close at hand, and are always ready to come to its aid, the Lao people say. Many of them immediately recall the events of recent years.

They recall, for instance, the terrible trials to which nature subjected the country's people when they had embarked on the path of creating a new life. In the summer of the year before last, an unprecedented drought destroyed 70 percent of the sown areas. Last year severe flooding--the second greatest natural disaster of this kind in the last 70 years--covered nearly 150,000 hectares of rice fields with water. The Soviet Union and other fraternal countries came to the aid of Laos. Of course, it could not be otherwise--our mutual relations are built on the principles, tested in life, of proletarian socialist internationalism.

...The United Nations numbered the Kingdom of Laos among the 20 most backward countries in the world. The country's economy was very weak. What about agriculture? More than 80 percent of the gainfully employed population were engaged in agriculture. And the rice yield? The lowest in Southeast Asia. [paragraph continues]

Industry? Small workshops operating on a semidomestic basis producing tobacco, matches, soft drinks. Transport? Over a territory half the size of France, an almost complete absence of hard-surfaced roads and not a single railroad. Mineral resources? Practically untapped. Despite the existence of tremendous hydroelectricity resources, the country ranked last in the world in per capita electricity generation. But the main fault of the former authorities was their attitude toward people. Illiteracy--60 percent of the population. Qualified doctors--80, in the whole country.... There was poverty, sickness, hunger. And finally, 20 years of interminable imperialist intervention. It will be recalled that during the U.S. "special" [osobaya] war 3 million tons of bombs were dropped on Laos.

The harder the past, the stronger its hold, as they say, on the present. But the people, having become the country's true masters, are full of enthusiasm, creative energy and radiant hopes.

In the last 3 years of people's power these gains have been augmented and consolidated. The contours of change in the "land of a million elephants" are emerging more and more visibly and clearly. Early last year the Supreme People's Council and Government of Laos established the main directions for the republic's national economic development in 1978-1980. The main attention was devoted to restoring and expanding agricultural production and forestry resources.

In June of the same year the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee Politburo adopted a decision on the transition to cooperativization in agriculture. It is a question of a radical restructuring of the basis of life and everyday affairs in the Lao countryside. Putting small, scattered farms on a socialist production footing is undoubtedly a complex and difficult process. But it is a solution to the inescapable tasks which exist. Persistent labor to transform agricultural production at the same time serves to arouse the awareness of the peasants' masses.

More than 800 cooperatives have already been created in the country. A considerable proportion of them--about 300--are in the southern province of Champassak, the republic's main rice granary. Some 10,000 groups have been organized for joint cultivation of the land. The construction of irrigation installations is being stepped up. Last year was declared by the party and government to be a year of the nationwide movement to build irrigation installations. Long-fallow and virgin lands are being plowed. A second, additional, rice harvest is being grown--this practice did not exist in Laos formerly.

Socialist transformations are also being implemented more and more widely in existing industrial production. The state sector is being strengthened, destroyed enterprises are being restored and existing enterprises are increasing their capacities. Last fall the second stage of the Nam Ngum hydroelectric power station was commissioned. The road bridge across the Neun River in Houa Phan Province was commissioned 1 month ahead of schedule. A petroleum storage and distribution center and engineering workshops are being constructed near Vientiane. These projects are being erected with the technical assistance of the Soviet Union.

Business and friendly ties are developing successfully between our countries. A number of trade and economic agreements have been signed. In the opinion of leaders of ministries and departments here, it is the USSR's assistance which makes it possible for Laos not only to overcome difficulties in restoring the national economy, but also to create a base for the future national economy. I recall a meeting in the office of an economic adviser at the USSR Embassy. Representatives came from all the republic's ministries in whose departmental organizations Soviet specialist's work: teachers, doctors, road builders, civil aviation instructors. There was a moving atmosphere of fraternity. The opinion of the Lao comrades was expressed by Sanan Soutthichak, minister of communications, public works and transport. Addressing his friends, he said:

"We are grateful to the CPSU, the USSR Government and all the Soviet people for the selfless assistance they give us. This help is now very necessary. We are particularly grateful for the training of national cadres both in Laos and in the USSR. More than 500 people have now gone away to study in your country's higher and secondary educational institutions--a record number, and we are proud of this."

The republic is acutely in need of qualified cadres. The Lao party and government devote constant attention to questions of education, eliminating illiteracy and improving the people's cultural standard. The Lao people have a tremendous thirst for knowledge. They also have a tremendous interest in the land of the soviets. This is indicated by full houses at the movie theater of the Lao-Soviet friendship society, where our movies are shown twice weekly, and by the ovations at concerts given by Soviet artistes in the capital's biggest auditorium, and by the grateful comments in visitors' books at Soviet exhibitions. There are many of these shining testimonies to friendship....

The LPRP is educating the people in the spirit of loyalty to the cause of socialism and shows constant concern for strengthening the bonds of friendship with fraternal socialist countries. At the same time it calls on the people to strengthen unity and cohesion, increase political vigilance and cultivate a feeling of collective responsibility for their country. The party and people nip in the bud all the intrigues of enemies who try to create chaos and organize insurrection. Bandits are particularly active in regions where national minorities live--the Meo, Yao and others, which the reaction is trying to use for subversive work.

Provocative actions against the republic on the part of the Chinese authorities have been stepped up recently. Tanks, artillery and other military hardware are being drawn up to Laos' northern borders--the concentration of Chinese troops is continuing on an increasingly large scale.

Protest rallies of working people are being held in many parts of the country. In Laos the firm position of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, which have demanded that China stop its aggressive preparations against Laos, has been welcomed.

Nobody can reverse the course of history. The Lao people know how to make friends, but they also know how to stand up for themselves--this was proved by the liberation struggle. It is no accident that the following proverb is so popular here: "If you have an enemy, fight him to the death; if you have a friend, be true to him to the end."

TEXT OF VCP SECRETARY XUAN THUY'S PRAISE OF USSR SUPPORT

The remarks by Xuan Thuy, secretary of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee, praising USSR support for Vietnam, published in excerpt form on page E 5 of the 29 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, can be made text by inserting the following two paragraphs after paragraph two:

"China, however, continues to nurture expansionist and hegemonistic plans. In preparing for new military adventures against Vietnam, Beijing is creating a serious threat to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and in the whole world.

"The present rulers of China have adopted a course of kindling a new world war, and they are encouraging a frantic arms race and are undermining the cause of peace, national independence and socialism throughout the world. Having entered into criminal collusion with American imperialism and other bellicose forces, they are undermining the world revolutionary process, revealing themselves as traitors to socialism."

TRANSFORMATIONS IN FORMER S. VIETNAMESE PROVINCE REPORTED

LD021516 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Hanoi, April 2, TASS--TASS correspondent Viktor Khrekov reports: Four years have passed since the red flag with a gold star was raised over Quang Nam-Da Nang Province as a sign of its complete liberation from the abhorred yoke of the puppet clique. Today's life of the province is one of the most vivid examples of the great transformations wrought on Vietnamese land in such a short space of time. Barbed wire entanglements, ugly fortifications, scores of thousands of mines and bombs mutilated the fertile land of Quang Nam-Da Nang. Today bright green rice sprouts can be seen on the erstwhile wastelands. Scores of thousands of hectares of virgin and fallow land have been brought under the plough.

Hunger, poverty and unemployment were constant companions of the population of our area prior to liberation, it was stated by Hoang Minh Thang, chairman of the provincial people's committee. Now these disgusting plagues of the old society have been, in the main, liquidated.

The province is confidently advancing along the road of socialist transformations. Collective labour is becoming wide-spread. As many as 132 agricultural cooperatives have already been set up. Illiteracy has been wiped out in the province. Two new institutes have been opened which annually train hundreds of different specialists for the national economy of the country's central part.

The results of the changes told very quickly, Hoang Minh Thang said. The volume of agricultural production in the province grows annually on the average of 27 percent and industrial output increased during the past year by 45 percent. The port of Da Nang, one of the biggest in the republic, is working at full capacity. All this is proof of the province population's unanimous approval of the party's course to build socialism.

The inhabitants of the province are always united, both in labour and in times of ordeal. The population of Quang Nam-Da Nang, as all the Vietnamese people, is courageously standing guard over the freedom and independence of the homeland.

JAPAN'S INVESTMENT POLICY IN INDONESIA EXPLOITATIVE

BK301444 Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia 1500 GMT 27 Mar 79 BK

[Lev Almasov commentary]

[Text] A few days ago the Indonesia-Japan Economic Committee met in Jakarta. According to press reports, Japan's investment policy in Indonesia was the main topic of discussion. The Indonesian side queried Japan's intention regarding its pledge to provide Indonesia with loans to develop its industries.

About 2 years ago, then Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda promised to give Indonesia a loan of more than $200 million to develop a fertilizer plant which is badly needed to improve Indonesian agriculture. But as of this day, the so-called aid remains a pledge on paper.

At the Jakarta meeting, the Indonesian delegation failed to obtain an answer as to when Japan will translate its words into deeds. As in the past, the Japanese side merely gave abstract pledges by saying that it was imperative to first resolve a series of problems. In other words, Tokyo wants to attach preconditions to its aid. What are these conditions?

As pointed out by the Indonesian press, one of Japan's conditions is the creation of a favorable climate for Japanese investment in Indonesia. Japanese corporations have demanded unrestricted investment in the Indonesian economic sectors of their choice and the transfer of profits to Japan.

It is of particular interest to note that more than half of Japan's total investment of $3 billion is in the Indonesian mining and forestry sectors. Judging from its great demand for mineral ores and timber, Japan's interest in these sectors is no coincidence. Japanese monopolies have no intention of sparing Indonesia's natural resources. They wildly plunder them without any consideration of, for example, the continuity of forest areas.

The local press has denounced the uncontrolled activities of 10 Japanese forestry companies. Within a few years after obtaining their license, these companies indiscriminately felled trees on thousands of hectares of forestry areas in Sumatra and Kalimantan. Large areas have become swamps of wasteland. Although the Indonesian authorities have restricted the penetration of foreign capital into the forestry sector, there now are 200 foreign forestry companies, of which more than half are Japanese, holding concessions totalling more than 20 million hectares of forest areas.

As a result of the expansion of Japan's investment in Indonesia, it has secured four-fifths of Indonesia's oil exports; the bulk of its tin, bauxite and manganese; and all its nickel exports. Japan's investment in Indonesia's agriculture sector accounts for only one percent. Nor does Japan want to invest in the development of heavy industries and processing industries which are imperative for a balanced growth of the Indonesian economy. Japanese monopolies want to keep the Southeast Asian countries as producers of raw materials for the capitalist world.

Let us take, for example, the development of the Asahan metallurgy and energy complex in Sumatra. The Indonesian-Japan agreement on the development of this complex was signed in December 1974. Since then much water has flowed down the Asahan River on which the complex was to have been built to produce aluminum and supply electricity to this region. But the Japanese side adopted delaying tactics. A consortium of Japanese private corporations assigned to develop the Asahan complex intentionally violated its commitment with the view of making greater profits. Initially the cost was estimated at $800 million, but later they raised this amount 1 and 1/2 times with the endorsement of the Japanese Government. In this connection, the daily KOMPAS described the so-called Japanese aid as a means to pave the way for Japanese corporations.

Another demand by the Japanese administration at loan negotiations has been that Indonesia should buy Japanese goods and use Japanese services. For example, in return for its loan to explore and drill for oil, Japan secured the right to export to Indonesia oil products manufactured by Japanese companies. In the meantime, the prices of these Japanese products have increased faster than the price of raw materials.

As a result of this price increase and the relatively free markets in ASEAN countries, Japan has not only been able to recover its loans, but also has made great profits from its trade. In addition, Japan rejected the Indonesian suggestion to remove the artificial obstacles for the access of its manufactured goods to the Japanese market.

Concerning Japan's new pledges at the Indonesia-Japan Economic Committee meeting in Jakarta that Japanese leaders will give greater consideration to the ASEAN countries' interests at international economic forums, the newspaper MERDEKA said that these are not enough, and pointed out that these pledges are aimed at covering up Japan's economic expansion in this part of the world.

YUGOSLAV PAPER'S REPORTAGE ON PRC CAUSES INDIGNATION

LD021459 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[V. Lapskiy article under the rubric "International Notes": "Grist to Beijing's Mill"]

[Text] There is an old parable about a company not marching in step. It springs to mind involuntarily when one reads a recent article in Yugoslavia's newspaper VJESNIK. The fact that the Chinese aggression against Socialist Vietnam has been condemned nearly everywhere, and particularly the sharp criticism of Beijing on the part of the Soviet press, are, in VJESNIK's opinion, evidence of excessive partiality. As the standard of "impartiality" the newspaper recommends the position of those Yugoslav journalists who, according to VJESNIK, "are consistently independent and nonalined with respect to Soviet-Chinese disputes and do not take one side or the other in advance; this, however, does not hinder them, but on the contrary, requires them to tell the truth about China."

Let us have a look at the so-called truth which the newspaper published in Zagreb reports for its readers. In the last few weeks the whole world witnessed Beijing's criminal aggression against the Vietnamese people. As a result of the Chinese intervention many settlements, thousands of houses, enterprises and hospitals, and roads, bridges and fields were destroyed on the territory of Socialist Vietnam. The aggression claimed many human victims. In this situation there can be no two opinions on who is the aggressor and who the victim of aggression. However, the newspaper VJESNIK, showing concern for "truthful information," is unwilling to call things by their names. It only sees "conflicting sides." Clearly this approach in no way conveys the essence of the events taking place in Southeast Asia. The Yugoslav newspaper places both the aggressor and its opponents on the same level. That is what VJESNIK's "objectivity" looks like. Its "truth" is in fact playing into the hands of the Beijing adventurists, who launched a criminal war against Vietnam and created a serious threat to universal peace.

The Yugoslav newspaper insistently stresses China's desire to "remain an independent country" and considers this practically the main factor causing it to come out against Vietnam. However, as is well known, nobody threatened or threatens China's independence. It is impossible to really think that such a threat came from Vietnam. On the contrary. Beijing, with its aggression, encroached upon Vietnam's independence and territorial integrity. Now it is whipping up tension on the border with Laos. The aim of its actions is the same--to intimidate a neighboring country and try to subjugate it to Beijing's will. But the Yugoslav newspaper deliberately closes its eyes to this fact. Its imaginary "impartiality" again turns out to be virtual support for the Beijing ruling clique's hegemonist aspirations.

The VJESNIK article contains an unambiguous hint that armed interference in other countries' affairs has allegedly become a part of socialist states' foreign policy. The author of the article, apparently deliberately displaying ideological shortsightedness, seeks to generalize certain characteristic features of the Beijing leadership's policy and apply them to other socialist countries. This is flagrant juggling with the facts. The newspaper ignores the fact that the Maoist ruling clique has long since departed from positions of Marxism-Leninism and completely betrayed the ideas of proletarian revolution.

The Maoists are following a chauvinist course which is alien to socialism and to the Chinese people's national interests by alining itself with the most reactionary forces. In order to struggle against the socialist countries, the Beijing leaders are prepared to enter into an alliance with whoever is convenient, be it Western imperialists or Japanese militarists, NATO hawks or Chilean fascists. Pursuing their selfish great power interest, they have essentially become the mercenaries of imperialism, offering their services to halt the world revolutionary process--mercenaries capable of the most dangerous ventures. It is impossible not to see this.

In the light of what has been said, VJESNIK's assurance that the newspaper defends "nobody's policy" sounds very unconvincing. It is hard to agree with this assertion. The newspaper takes on the unseemly role of defender of the Beijing expansionists. Incidentally, the VJESNIK article itself was in the form of a reaction to letters from readers criticizing the editorial board on the way the newspaper publicizes "certain phenomena in Chinese foreign policy." The position occupied by VJESNIK with respect to the Beijing aggressors cannot fail to arouse feelings of indignation and sincere regret.

ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY PLENUM MAKES PERSONNEL CHANGES

LD301658 Moscow TASS in English 1624 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Bucharest, March 30, TASS--A plenum of the Romanian Communist Party CC was held here. The plenum examined the foreign policy activity of the party as well as a report on the composition and organizational structure of the Romanian Communist Party. A decision has been adopted to exchange party cards as of January 1, 1980.

The plenum recommended that Manea Manescu be relieved from the post of prime minister of the government at his request and for health reasons. Ilie Verdet has been recommended for the post of prime minister. The plenum has elected Nicolae Constantin alternate member of the Political Executive Committee of the Romanian Communist Party CC and recommended that he be appointed deputy prime minister of the government and chairman of the State Planning Committee. The plenum elected Dumitru Popa and Ilie Radulescu secretaries of the Romanian Communist Party CC.

UK LABOR PARTY'S ECONOMIC POLICY RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS FALL

LD030819 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[G. Deynichenko article under the rubric "On Topical Themes": "The Fall of the British Cabinet"]

[Text] The vote on a motion of no confidence in the Labor government held in the British House of Commons on Wednesday evening led to the defeat of J. Callaghan's cabinet.

For 6 days, since the Conservative opposition tabled this resolution, the British press made the most unlikely forecasts on the outcome of the voting. There was a stubborn struggle for the votes of deputies belonging to the small parties, who could help the Labor Party to remain in power, or help the Conservatives to bring down the Labor government. The distribution of forces in the House of Commons did not turn out to Labor's advantage. They received 310 votes. The motion of no confidence received the support of 311 deputies and was passed by only 1 vote. Prime Minister Callaghan announced after the vote that Parliament will be dissolved in a few days and early elections will be held in the country.

For the first time since 1924 a British Government is resigning due to a no confidence motion. However, the Labor government's situation did not become unstable overnight. Without even a simple majority in the House of Commons, it was forced to maneuver, relying on the votes of minority parties, seeking compromises and making concessions to its rivals.

However, it was neither the exceptional nature of parliamentary procedure nor parliamentary arithmetic which predetermined the fate of the present Labor Cabinet. Its positions were undermined by its economic policy, two of whose keynotes were limiting the working people's wages in conditions of growing inflation and reducing expenditure on social needs. The third keynote was increasing military expenditure. In the present Labor Cabinet's 4 years of existence the cost of living has increased constantly in Britain and the army of unemployed has reached 1.5 million people. At the same time Britain ranked among the first of those NATO countries which responded with particular zeal to the bloc leaders' appeal for a further increase in military budgets and buildup in the arms race. Even if one adds the Labor government's inability to deal with the situation in Northern Ireland and their inconsistency on a series of important foreign policy questions, the picture of the fall in the Labor government's authority will still be incomplete.

In these conditions, which are very disadvantageous for Labor, the election campaign has effectively begun in the British Isles. The Conservatives have already formulated their strategy in broad terms. It is the traditional action program of the British Tories, clearly aimed at securing the interests of big capital. The Labor leader has announced a series of economic measures intended to attract voters. Election day has not yet been officially announced. However, it is clear that it is now not a question of a no confidence vote in parliament, but a question of the confidence of millions of Britons, which it will not be easy for either the Labor Party of the Conservatives to win.

END OF BRITISH PRESENCE STRENGTHENS MALTA'S SOVEREIGNTY

LD012122 Moscow TASS in English 1453 GMT 1 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Rome, April 1, TASS--The national red and white flag of Malta was hoisted last night over the former British naval base.

The official flag-hoisting ceremony has put an end to the 180 year old British military presence in that island state in the Mediterranean, whose government refused to prolong the term of the agreement for stationing of British troops in the island. The dismantling of the last foreign naval base in Malta contributes towards strengthening the sovereignty of that country, which gained national independence in 1964. In its foreign policy, Malta proclaimed a course for non-alignment and non-participation in military blocs. President A. Buttigieg of Malta stressed, addressing the official national flag-hoisting ceremony that the people of Malta will never permit the placing of foreign military bases in the island.

NATO FAILURE TO RESPOND TO SOCIALIST STATES' PROPOSALS HIT

LD312310 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 31 Mar 79 LD

["Glance at the British Scene" with Vadim Nekrasov]

[Text] The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is about to celebrate its 30th birthday. There is a lot of talk going on in the West on that occasion by both officials and the press about the alleged role of NATO in promoting peace in Europe and consequently in averting another world war. London is also taking a large part in this showering of praises.

According to the latest white book on defense published in the British capital, Britain has allegedly benefitted from NATO membership in ensuring its security and the North Atlantic alliance supposedly serves as a reliable means to reduce the danger of war. Yet broad sections of the British public take a diametrically opposite view and their view is shared by the Soviet Union and other socialist states. They declare that for the past few decades peace has been maintained and strengthened not thanks to but despite NATO and the arms race and brinkmanship (?it produced). The closed military blocs led by the North Atlantic alliance have been not a blessing but a heavy burden with their constant threat to plunge mankind into the flames of a destructive thermonuclear conflict.

On NATO's 30th birthday many people wonder why NATO remains a major component of international life despite all the changes that have taken place in the world. Why has NATO failed to respond to all the proposals advanced by the East European countries of the Warsaw Treaty Organization set up, incidentally, 6 years after the NATO bloc as a countermeasure. According to those proposals both these military-political groupings should be disbanded. The answer evidently lies in the key role NATO is assigned in the policies of the Western powers, including Britain, at this stage in their history.

From the very beginning NATO's activities were based on the concept of a so-called Atlantic spirit. This concept reflects the desire displayed in the very first years after World War II to combine the efforts of the ruling groups of countries on both sides of the Atlantic for a confrontation with the socialist community of nations that was getting established then and also for maintaining the old social order in those countries.

Let's recall that exactly at that time when the Soviet Union was confronted by the tremendous task of restoring its war-ravaged economy the then British prime minister, Winston Churchill, nursed plans for joint military action by the Western powers using units of the captured Hitlerite troops, against their former ally, Moscow. It was also then that United States President Harry Truman planned nuclear blackmail of the Soviet Union, which as yet did not have that weapon.

Throughout the years NATO's function has not changed to any noticeable extent. Everywhere the North Atlantic alliance continues to support forces that slow down the development of peaceful cooperation of states with different social systems. As for London, it is not simply a rank-and-file member of that alliance. Guided by a desire to raise its prestige among the West European countries, official London is laying special stress on the Atlantic spirit which it regards as a means of maintaining special confidential relations with Washington. As a result, Britain is spending a larger share of its state budget on defense than do other NATO countries with the exception of the United States. Its economic position is getting worse and worse and it is losing in the competition with Federal Germany and France.

International relations are now determined to an ever greater extent by the process of relaxation of international tensions. And yet, as a consequence of NATO's existence, Europe still remains a region with the highest level of confrontation in the world. The arms race, stepped up by the North Atlantic alliance, not only absorbs enormous manpower and material resources but--and that is the main thing--creates a threat to the very existence of civilization on our planet. NATO's activities clash with the basic interests of all nations as well as with normal development of international relations.

NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING STRESSES DETENTE

LD301825 Moscow TASS in English 1808 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Copenhagen, March 30, TASS--Today the foreign ministers of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland ended a meeting here, during which they examined urgent international issues, including detente and European security. A communique published at the end of the meeting particularly underlines the importance of resolving international conflicts by peaceful means in accordance with the U.N. principles on respect for the territorial integrity of states and non-use of force. It points also to the need for continuing the process of East-West detente and the great significance of the earliest conclusion of the SALT-2 negotiations.

BELGIAN CP CONGRESS CONCLUDES, APPROVES RESOLUTION

LD012148 Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 1 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Brussels, April 1, TASS--The 23rd Congress of the Communist Party of Belgium has closed here today.

The general political resolution approved by its delegates points out that the policy of the bourgeois government has resulted in an aggravation of the political, economic and social difficulties, through which the country is going now. It stressed that only socialism can guarantee a democratic development for Belgium and resolution of its vital national problems.

The Belgian communists have wrathfully condemned the Chinese aggression against Socialist Vietnam and demanded immediate withdrawal of the aggressor troops from Vietnam's territory. The policy pursued by the Beijing leadership, the resolution of the congress points out, plays into the hands of U.S. imperialism and the NATO bloc. The delegates to the congress have also declared for a vigorous development of cooperation with the countries of the socialist community and stressed the necessity of deepening the process of detente.

A new composition of the party Central Committee was elected at the closing session of the congress.

REACTION, COMMENTARY ON PEACE TREATY SIGNING CONTINUES

General Skepticism Over Treaty

LD021153 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[P. Demchenko article: "New Realities, Old Problems"]

[Text] Perhaps no event connected with the Near East has aroused such a stormy reaction as the Egyptian-Israeli "peace treaty" signed in Washington on Monday. At literally the very moment the U.S. and Egyptian presidents and the Israeli prime minister, not stinting their words about peace, were delivering their speeches at the solemn ceremony organized on the White House's green lawn, demonstrators beyond the White House railings were branding the concluded treaty as an outrage against peace and against the interests of the Arab peoples and as connivance at Israeli aggression.

Columns consisting of many thousands of indignant Arabs filed through the streets of Damascus and Baghdad, Amman and Beirut on the same day. The Palestinian population of the cities and villages occupied by Israel held a general strike, proclaiming 26 March "a day of mourning."

Nor was there rejoicing in Cairo. Indeed, far from everyone was celebrating even in Israel. "In both Cairo and Jerusalem," the French newspaper LE FIGARO wrote, "people are voicing fears for the future. Will the new set-up not create a smokier situation in the Near East, more fraught with the danger of possible conflicts that the situation which existed hitherto?"

This question is worrying many people. As Syrian President H. al-Asad has stated, a new reality has arisen in the Near East and it must be taken into account. On Tuesday, Arab foreign ministers except, of course, for the Egyptian foreign minister (the representatives of three other countries did not come either) gathered in Baghdad to discuss what joint steps they should take in the situation which has taken shape.

Two decisions are already known. One is to transfer the headquarters of the Arab League from Cairo to another city and the second is to convene in the immediate future a meeting of Arab leaders to decide the question of other sanctions against Egypt. A number of countries and the PLO considered these steps to be inadequate, insisting on the immediate adoption of more vigorous actions.

It is clear that the new realities in the Near East also require a new approach to the solution of the problems facing the peoples of this region. Above it all it must be borne in mind that the historically shaped situation whereby all Arab states irrespective of their approach to particular problems jointly opposed Israeli aggression, has been violated.

The biggest Arab country has now turned its back on the interests and struggle of its brothers. For the sake of an alliance with the United States, Egypt is even becoming a de facto ally of Israel by helping it to hold on to the Syrian Golan Heights and East Jerusalem which it occupied in 1967 and to deny the Palestinians the right to create their own state.

Let us recall that there have been four Arab-Israeli wars since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and on each occasion Israel has expanded its territory, by "seizing" more and more territory from the Arabs. The Palestinian problem arose as a direct result of Israeli aggression: A nation now numbering about 3.5 million people has been deprived of the right to independent existence. The destiny of the exiled people has become a key problem of a Near East settlement.

But the Israeli-Egyptian treaty and its associated documents contain only formal mentions of this problem. As PLO Chairman Y. 'Arafat stated, they "legalize Israeli occupation of Arab territories and doom the Arab people of Palestine to perpetual exile."

In an interview with NEWSWEEK, Israeli Prime Minister M. Begin confirmed this thought with cynical frankness. Without beating about the bush he stated: All Israel is prepared to offer is "autonomy for the population" of the Jordan West Bank and Gaza Strip but not "autonomy for the territory." That is, the lands will remain forever under Israeli control, as will East Jerusalem. Moreover, Begin stated that it could only be a case of the Palestinians living there now, while the 2 million refugees will never be allowed to return home. Thus the violence committed by Zionism against the Palestinian Arab people is reinforced.

We cannot fail to draw attention to the fact that, by signing the treaty and its associated documents the United States is attempting to secure itself legal opportunities for interfering in the affairs of this region and for resurrecting U.S. neocolonialism here, as L'HUMANITE put it. "The United States was interested in a treaty and it has got it," the New York TIMES noted. For Washington it is a case of fettering Israel and Egypt more closely to itself, by cramming these countries with arms, and turning them into its main base in the region extending from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea. In other words, making these countries its gendarme in the oil-rich Persian Gulf to take the place of the shah's Iran, and turning them into guardians of the interests of U.S. imperialism.

The United States has been concerned also over its "right" to direct interference. For instance, you only have to refer to the letter the U.S. President sent to A. as-Sadat and M. Begin for everything to become clear. The letter speaks of "the U.S. commitment under the Near East peace treaty." It also mentions U.S. "air surveillance" of the region and the fact that if the U.S. President fails to involve the United Nations in control over the treaty's implementation, "the President will be prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to insure the creation and maintenance of some acceptable alternative multinational forces." U.S. military intervention is also envisaged in the memorandums compiled by the United States and Israel as supplements to the treaty.

And it must be borne in mind that by pushing Egypt and Israel into the deal, Washington was sidestepping the well known UN resolution on the Near East and the Soviet-American accords, in particular the 1 October 1977 document. And this is a dangerous precedent in itself.

Furthermore, in their speeches and numerous interviews the participants of the White House celebrations try to assure everybody that the signed treaty is the first step toward a general settlement in the Near East. Nobody believes this. Even the Washington POST wrote: The treaty "will almost certainly not bring a general settlement." Moreover, it complicates the path to peace.

It is clear why this deal is resolutely condemned by the socialist countries and by many communist and workers parties. Some of the United States' allies are also fairly skeptical about it since they realize that a secure peace cannot be established in this part of the world without a general, comprehensive approach to the Near East problem. This is mentioned, for example, in the statement by the EEC countries: "The settlement must be based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and must make the right of the Palestinian people to have their own motherland a reality."

As regards the Soviet Union's position, it is well known: A genuine Near East settlement must include the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all lands seized in 1967, the granting to the Palestinians of the right to create their own state, and the guarantee of security and of a chance to live in conditions of peace and tranquility for all Near East countries and peoples. The struggle for precisely this kind of settlement will continue.

'Peace at Any Price' Not Needed

LD021343 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[N. Ushakov article: "Bought Treaty; Arab Peoples Reject the Separate Deal Between Israel and Egypt"]

[Text] World public attention has again been drawn to the situation in the Near East. The signing of the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty, toward which President A. as-Sadat of Egypt, urged on by the United States and Israel, had been moving for 18 months, took place in Washington 26 March.

Under this treaty and its associated documents Israel pledges to withdraw its troops in 9 months from the Sinai Peninsula, which is to be handed over to Cairo with certain reservations which gives grounds for maintaining that Egypt will not possess full sovereignty over that territory. The state of war is ended, and diplomatic, trade and other relations are established between the two countries. The authors of this document call it a peace treaty. However, detailed familiarization with the text and its associated documents shows that this treaty does not lead to just and lasting peace, blocks the path leading to the attainment of a just settlement, does not help to untie the knot of Near Eastern contradictions and sows the seeds of new conflicts and upheavals in this region.

While returning Sinai, the Israeli aggressor continues to hold other occupied Arab lands. The Palestinian problem, rightly acknowledged today as the key issue in a Near East settlement, is not resolved. Replying to statements by Egyptian Prime Minister M. Khalil advertising this separate deal, Israeli Prime Minister M. Begin declared in the Knesset that Israel will never retreat to the 1967 borders, "indivisible" Jerusalem will "forever" remain the capital of Israel, and a Palestinian state on occupied Palestinian lands "will never be created."

The United States has been the chief director and producer of the backstage negotiations. Secretary of State C. Vance, Defense Secretary H. Brown, Z. Brzezinski, assistant to the U.S. President for national security affairs, and J. Carter personally made considerable efforts to persuade Egypt and Israel to sit at the negotiating table and then sign the treaty. This U.S. involvement in the separate deal is not accidental. The weakening of American imperialism's positions in the oil rich Near and Middle East as a result of the antimonarchist revolution in Iran and the Arab peoples' liberation movement has forced the Carter administration to take extraordinary measures.

In the United States and in the Near East too it is being stated bluntly that the Carter administration has bought this treaty in the literal sense of the word by promising Egypt and Israel billion-dollar military and economic assistance. The New York TIMES has bluntly written that "the price of peace may total $60 billion for the United States." The aggressor will even receive several billions for razing its military fortifications and liquidating military airfields in Sinai. One wonders, however: If an "era of peace" is coming to the Near East, what do Egypt and Israel want with the huge quantity of modern weapons that the United States intends to deliver to these countries? For Egypt alone, according to the same New York TIMES, is asking for military aid to the tune of $20-$30 billion over 10 years. The thing is that Egypt and Israel, according to the American administration's plan, will henceforth fulfill the role of a regional policeman and act as a stifler of the freedom of the neighboring peoples of Asia and Africa.

The parties to the separate anti-Arab deal are now paying chief attention to implementing the military articles of the so-called "peace" treaty between Cairo and Tel Aviv, expediting the creation of a new military alliance in the Near East spearheaded against the Arab national liberation movement and aimed at safeguarding U.S. interests in this strategically important region. In an interview with journalists in Washington the Egyptian president addressed threats directly at Libya, declaring his "readiness to teach a lesson" to Egypt's neighboring sovereign Arab state. Citing diplomatic sources in Cairo, the New York TIMES writes of an Egyptian troop concentration on the border with Libya and of a selective callup of reservists in Egypt.

The language of blackmail and threats is also being spoken by the Israeli leaders, who receive from the United States considerably more weapons--and more sophisticated weapons--than their partner in the separate deal. At a meeting with American businessmen in New York Israeli Prime Minister Begin openly threatened the OPEC countries, which have adopted a decision to raise oil prices, and urged the West to "look seriously at the situation."

The Arab peoples have greeted with indignation the signing of the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty. The capitals of Arab states, many U.S. cities and the Israeli-occupied territories are being shaken by thousands-strong protest demonstrations. On 27 March the foreign and economic ministers of Arab countries, who gathered in Baghdad at the invitation of Syria and Iraq, adopted a decision on the application of political and other sanctions against Egypt. The realization of these decisions will fill anti-imperialist Arab unity with concrete political substance. These decisions also show that the Arab countries, regardless of the nature of their state system or their foreign policy orientation, are well aware of the danger posed to their own national interests by the separate deal and the sinister plans for an American military presence in the Near East.

The peoples of the Near East need peace. What they need, however, is not any peace or, still less, peace at any price. This is why the Soviet Union, which is far from indifferent to how the situation in the Near East shapes up, resolutely advocates a comprehensive and truly peaceful settlement in that region. This settlement cannot be achieved without the withdrawal of the aggressor's troops from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and without recognition of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to create their own state.

The friendly visit of A. A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, to Syria, which is courageously waging the struggle to liquidate the consequences of Israeli aggression and against the separate course in a Near East settlement, showed once again that the Soviet Union takes a stand of firm support for the Arab peoples' struggle against Israeli aggression. On behalf of the Soviet leadership A. A. Gromyko reaffirmed the immutability of the Soviet Union s principled stand on questions of a Near East settlement and emphasized the fairness of the demands and the legitimacy of the rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including the right to create their own national state. "The Soviet Union for its part is prepared to continue acting in concert with everyone who values the ideals of justice and peace in the Near East," A. A. Gromyko declared.

Egypt's Belated Protest

LD022046 Moscow TASS in English 2005 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 2, TASS--Below follows the complete text of an article by Leonid Zaviyalov entitled "The Storm in a Tea-Cup", published in today's IZVESTIYA:

The Egyptian-Israeli deal concluded on the basis of the so-called "peace treaty" worked out by U.S. diplomats, caused justified condemnation in many countries of the world. The punishment to As-Sadat for selling out the Arab interests followed immediately. The conference of ministers of foreign affairs and economies of Arab countries adopted 23 resolutions providing for sanctions against the present regime in Egypt, including the recalling of Arab states' ambassadors from Cairo, the rupture of political and diplomatic relations with the As-Sadat government, the transfer of the headquarters of the League of Arab States from the Egyptian capital and a number of other measures. Such a reaction came as quite unexpected to the Egyptian leaders although As-Sadat had stated quite frankly that he would have to live through a moment of discontent in Arab countries, expressing certainty, however, that all this would calm down.

It is difficult to say what is more at issue here--naivete or misunderstanding that the indignation of the Arab peoples is at the same time their defence against the Government of Egypt which, having concluded a peace "Camp David style" created new fundamental problems in the area making the prospect of a universal settlement of the situation in the Middle East more remote and betraying the Arab people of Palestine.

We have already written that the separate deal concluded in Washington runs counter to the interests of all the Arabs including Egypt, for that matter. As-Sadat capitulated while Israel emerged the winner from the deal.

A confirmation of this conclusion can be found in the U.S.-Israeli "memorandum on agreement" which contains guarantees of the United States of America to Israel in case of violation, as the memorandum says, or the threat of violation of the provisions of the deal between Israel and Egypt. The essence of the memorandum boils down to the fact that the United States not only undertakes to flood Israel with the most sophisticated U.S. weapons but also to buttress the Israeli policy aimed against the Arab countries by deploying U.S. troops on the Sinai, increasing the number of U.S. navalbases in the seas contiguous with the Middle East area and creating a special U.S. fleet to plough the seas bordering on the area.

The ink was scarcely dry under the so-called "peace treaty" when a first group of U.S. military specialists had already arrived in Israel to assist in the transfer of the Israeli air bases from the Sinai to Israel, the creation on Israeli territory of military strongholds. Against whom, one may ask, are all these military strongholds and bases directed? It is natural that they should be directed, in the first place, against the Arab countries, a fact that the United States does not hide. The peace "Camp David style" is accompanied by the rumble of arms airlifted into the area. What kind of peace is that? Rather, it is a step in the direction of a new military conflict. The settlement proper, which is being referred to as a "peace" settlement, turns out to be false. Not peaceful but military, and this military might in the Arab East again relies on Israel which has committed an aggression against the Arab countries. Tied up to it is Egypt which, in the words of As-Sadat, would be glad to fill the function of a policeman in the area.

As-Sadat has uttered a no small amount of eulogies addressed to the United States on the day of signing, on the lawn in front of the White House, of the so called "peace treaty", while four days later Egypt's Prime Minister Khalil (it was on March 30) demanded an urgent meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Vance at which he said that the U.S. military guarantees to Israel were unacceptable to Cairo. On instructions from As-Sadat, the Egyptian prime minister handed over to the secretary of state a protest in writing stating that the U.S.-Israeli "memorandum on agreement" was nothing but an alliance which was, in the final analysis, spearheaded against Egypt. The prime minister's letter stated that the memorandum gave rise to serious doubts regarding the true intentions of the United States and was regarded by Egypt as invalid. Where have, one may ask, the Egyptians been when the document was being adopted? The fact is that nobody had kept the U.S.-Israeli document a secret from Egypt. Incidentally, it was mentioned by the U.S. State Department.

The Egyptians knew of everything, they had been well informed. Moreover, the United States proposed to Cairo a practically similar agreement. This is what State Department spokesmen now affirm.

The U.S. press indicates that As-Sadat himself, prior to his departure from the United States to Europe, had the text of this document and when he was uttering his eulogies before the White House he was well aware of the contents of the "memorandum on agreement." In his speech, As-Sadat said nothing about the U.S.-Israeli military alliance and the protest came later when As-Sadat was no longer in Washington.

In this connection, the U.S. press writes quite clearly that As-Sadat's initiative would not have any serious impact on or implications for the U.S.-Israeli relations.

The protest followed as a result of the sharp reaction by the peoples and governments of Arab countries to the separate deal as a whole and now the desire in Egypt is to present in a different light the position adopted by the Egyptian representatives in Washington: That allegedly during the signing, they did not know the whole story that the text of the "memorandum on agreement" in question was allegedly shown to them one day before the ceremony of signing the peace treaty and that this was done not by way of consulting Egypt but just for its information. Such attempts at justifications can hardly convince anyone of the sincerity of such a protest.

The far-reaching U.S. guarantees to Israel, including military, were not new to Egypt; these commitments are part of the system which is described as "peace--Camp David style" and which was elaborated with the participation of President as-Sadat and his full consent. That is why the "belated protest", as it was referred to in the U.S. press, looks like "a storm in a tea cup."

Israeli Fears of Soviet Danger

TA030807 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1730 GMT 31 Mar 79 TA

[Text] As has been reported, while appearing at the U.S. Congress session devoted to the signing of the separate deal between Israel and Egypt, Prime Minister Menahem Begin tried to frighten the Americans with what was called the Soviet threat. As a proof that this threat really exists, Begin painted an unrealistic picture of almost all the Middle Eastern countries which do not support the separate deal becoming Soviet arms depots.

Begin's lying words are so transparent that through them the objective for which these anti-Soviet distortions were invented can be seen clearly: to receive further supplies of modern weapons from the United States. And indeed, the aspirations of Israel's leaders to turn their country, through all means, into a U.S. arms depot in the Middle East have been known for a long time, as has their willingness to permit U.S. military forces to use Haifa port and other areas of the country.

Now, after signing what is called the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, everything falls into place. In accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, the United States has officially promised to discuss the question of increasing the U.S. military presence in the Middle East and offering emergency aid to Israel. Washington has already decided to actualize its plans to increase the military forces in the Middle East.

A group of U.S. military experts has arrived in Israel. It is planned to send another group of experts from the U.S. Air Force with the aim of helping Israel to transfer its airfields from Sinai. In addition, the United States has agreed to send, in the near future, 5 modern F-16 fighter planes, 200 M-60 tanks, 800 armored units, 200 artillery units, 1,200 Margaret [as heard] and Sidewinder missiles and other weapons. Cairo has also received an encouragement prize.

In referring to the U.S. arms supplies to Israel and Egypt, observers comment that according to the conditions of the separate deal they will use these weapons for the defense of U.S. interests in the Middle East. In brief: According to the plans of the imperialist circles in the United States, in the near future the Middle East should become their iron fist, a depot of modern weapons.

Appearing before the Senate on the question of increasing arms supplies to the Middle East, the well-known Democratic Party member Senator Proxmire commented that the policy of increasing the arms supplies maintained by the U.S. administration is basically incorrect; it is a policy of suicide. This is the conclusion of U.S. statesmen with healthy views. And what is the opinion of the Israelis? In Israel the progressive forces are warning the nation of the danger that, as a result of the actualization of the U.S. plans, the nation could turn into cannon-fodder for the sake of the defense of the interests of U.S. imperialism and its economic position could worsen even more rapidly. The Central Committee of the Israeli Communist Party has called on all peace-loving forces in the country, to all aware Israelis, to unite and reject the cheating agreement by Carter-Begin-as-Sadat, and the agreement which undermines Israel's independence, an agreement which pushes the Israeli people into an abyss of military adventures, suffering and additional shortages.

Egyptian Left Party's Opposition

LD021417 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Text] Cairo, 28 March, TASS--Egypt's National Progressive (Left) Party has decisively rejected the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty signed in Washington 2 days ago by As-Sadat and Begin.

A statement by the National Progressive Party's General Secretariat disseminated here states that this deal has been concluded to the detriment of Egypt's political and economic interests and at the price of its total isolation in the Arab world. It helps to achieve the aims of imperialism, which is seeking finally to undermine Arab national unity and to hinder the Arab people's socioeconomic progress.

All the "security guarantees" recorded in the treaty have been given to just one side at the expense of the other's security. They have been given to Israel, which has attacked Egypt three times, as well as Jordan and Syria, and which carried out bandit raids on southern Lebanon even during the "peace" negotiations with Egypt.

Concerning the Palestinian problem, Egypt's Left Party declared that the plan approved by As-Sadat and Begin for "administrative autonomy" on the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip gives a semblance of "legality" to the Israeli occupation of those territories and provides for the expansion of the network of Israeli militarized settlements that have been created there. The problem of Jerusalem is totally ignored. In fact the Palestinian question, which is at the heart of the entire Near East problem, has simply been circumvented.

The military pact involving Egypt and Israel, which the United States is creating, is aimed at blocking Syria, Libya, Democratic Yemen, the revolutionary movement in Oman and other progressive regimes and movements not only in the Near East but also in Africa and Southwest Asia. In order that Egypt might rise together with Israel to defend U.S. strategic and economic interests, Washington intends to supply it with American weapons.

Every honest Egyptian must reject the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and call on the Egyptian People's Assembly to refuse to ratify it.

The statement confirms the need for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the UN resolutions and the decisions of Arab summit conferences.

Sanctions Against Egypt

LD021918 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, April 2, TASS--In accordance with the decisions of the Baghdad conference of ministers of foreign affairs and economies, the government of Arab states are taking sanctions of a political and economic nature against the As-Sadat regime. Jordan has severed all diplomatic and political relations with Egypt. The ambassadors of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have been recalled from Cairo. Earlier, as is known, relations with Egypt were severed by member countries of the National Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. It was announced that member-states of the Islamic countries will hold a conference of foreign ministers in Rabat, the capital of Morocco, early in May. There is a proposal to expel Egypt from this organisation. The conference will discuss the situation in the Middle East resultant of the signing of the separate Egyptian-Israeli "peace" treaty.

According to reports from Cairo, the radical decisions of the Baghdad conference caught the Egyptian leadership completely off balance. The loss of financial aid from such countries as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar will hit hard at As-Sadat. According to some estimates this aid in the period from 1973 amounted to 17 billion dollars.

The Egyptian press is publishing materials full of various insinuations about Arab countries. An Egyptian official spokesman could not find anything better than to declare the decisions of the Baghdad conference "unlawful." This, however, cannot conceal from the Egyptian public the fact that as a result of As-Sadat's policy of betrayal the country on the Nile has found itself in total isolation.

The conference in Baghdad showed that Arab countries are capable of coming out in a united front against the dangerous consequences of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, it was stated by Lebanon's Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

The decisions of the Baghdad conference dealt a serious blow at the U.S. policy in the Middle East, member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Y. 'Abd Rabbur stated in Beirut. They laid a healthy foundation for strengthening Arab solidarity on the basis of resistance to the American-Zionist-Sadat plans that are hostile to the Arabs.

The Arab countries should not restrict themselves to struggle against the capitulatory, treacherous regime of As-Sadat, a press conference was told by the acting secretary general of the Central Political Council of the National-Patriotic Forces of Lebanon Mohsen Ibrahim. In order to illustrate the plot directed against the Arab nation, they should first of all come out against American imperialism.

The Arabs should not only take reply measures but also deliver a blow at the interests of the United States in the Middle East, while strengthening at the same time relations with friendly states, with all forces of revolution and progress, Syria's Minister of Culture and National Orientation Najah al-'Attar writes in the newspaper (?AL-BA'TH).

We regard the success of the Baghdad conference as a victory of the Arab nation in the struggle against the policy of the United States that is hostile to the aspirations and interests of the Arabs, says a message sent by the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat to the president of Iraq Al-Bakr.

We are convinced, stresses the newspaper TARIQ ASH-SHA'B of the Iraqi Communist Party, that the alliance of the Arab masses with a [words indistinct] movement and the international revolutionary movement, cooperation and coordination of actions with the socialist community, with the Soviet Union in its vanguard, will allow us to defeat all plots of imperialism and Zionism.

The conference in Baghdad showed that the factors that unite Arabs are much stronger than the factors that disunite them, writes the Damascus newspaper TISHRIN. The Arab countries must fulfill the adopted decisions that are being regarded as a minimum programme in the struggle to foil the anti-Arab plot and overthrow the treacherous As-Sadat regime.

Qatar Recalls Egyptian Ambassador

LD022122 Moscow TASS in English 2016 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Cairo, April 2, TASS--The ambassador of Qatar to Egypt, Sharidah Jubran al-Ka'bi, today left Cairo.

Qatar is the sixth Arab state to take such a step within the political and economic boycott of the As-Sadat regime, agreed on at the Baghdad meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs and economy of the Arab states.

The first five states to withdraw their ambassadors from Egypt were Jordan, Kuwait, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Arab Communist Parties' Statement

LD022210 Moscow TASS in English 2115 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Prague, April 2, TASS--A statement of the communist and workers' parties of Arab countries has been released here on the conclusion between the As-Sadat regime and Israel, under the U.S. aegis, of a separate "peace" treaty.

This act, the statement says, marked the culmination of the capitulatory activities and sell-out began by As-Sadat's visit to the occupied Jerusalem and continued by the signing of the Camp David agreements.

The peace treaty represents a serious violation of Egypt's independence and national sovereignty. It preserves Israeli occupation of part of Egyptian territories.

The treaty represents a danger for the interests of the Arab peoples and violation of the charter of the League of Arab states and of the agreement on joint defence. It aims at weakening and undermining the unity of Arabs in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism, dividing the Arab national-liberation movement as well as to excluding Egypt for good from the front of Arab solidarity vis-a-vis Israeli occupation and imperialism.

The treaty deals a treacherous blow to the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine. It denies the right of the people to self-determination, the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, recognizes Israel's permanent military control over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and perpetuates the annexation by Israel of the Arab part of Jerusalem. The treaty's provisions on administrative autonomy represent a plot aimed at consolidating Israeli occupation, against the realization by the Palestinian people of its right to create an independent national state of its own.

The treaty spells a danger to peace and security in the area as well as to peace in the world. It provides for the creation in Egypt and Israel of U.S. army, air and naval bases, huge supplies of U.S. arms, in the first place to Israel and also to Egypt, creation of espionage and early warning stations, The military bloc which is being knocked together under the agreement is aimed against the forces of freedom and progress in the world.

The United States have taken a lot of trouble to bring about the conclusion of this deal which smacks of collusion. They applied pressure to Egypt obtaining its concessions on all of the provisions of the treaty.

The United States is trying to regain its direct control of the area to make up for the vast political, military and economic damage it suffered following the triumph of the Iranian revolution and the complete disintegration of the CENTO bloc, to prevent the profound revolutionary transformations in Democratic Yemen, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Angola and to block the growing Arab resistance.

The signing of the treaty is linked to the overall strategy of the United States. The treaty, however, lacks what it claims to achieve, mainly the peace. On the contrary, it carries the seeds of tensions and further aggression and stands as an obstacle on the path of efforts to achieve a just settlement of the Middle East problem.

The communist and workers' parties of Arab countries address themselves to the Arab popular masses in all countries, to all the forces of freedom and progress in the world with the appeal to step up the struggle against the treaty.

The communist and workers parties of Arab countries come out with a new appeal for safeguarding the broadest freedoms and democracy for the popular masses so as to achieve, in the entire Arab world and in each country individually, the broadest mass demonstrations against the humiliating and shameful treaty, to achieve increasingly closer cooperation between all the progressive, patriotic forces and regimes in the Arab countries, to unite them in the broadest possible fighting front, and to strengthen cooperation and alliance with the Soviet Union--the true friend and reliable ally of the Arabs in their struggle against imperialism and Zionism, for economic and social progress.

LEFT PARTY ATTACKS EGYPT'S 'OPEN-DOOR' ECONOMIC POLICY

LD301556 Moscow TASS in English 1533 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

["Egypt: Criticism of the Government's Economic Policy"--TASS headline]

[Text] Cairo, March 30, TASS--The so-called "open-door and economic liberalization policy" pursued by the present leadership of the A.P.E. forces down the living standards of the working masses, leads up to the domination of foreign capital in the national economy and jeopardizes Egypt's economic independence. This policy relies not on the productive sections of Egyptian society but on parasitic elements who are closely linked with world imperialist circles, says an article published in the latest issue of the bulletin of the National Progressive (Left) Party of Egypt.

The bulletin mentions among the most serious consequences of such a policy the lack of any, even minimum, growth of agricultural production, an acute shortage of foodstuffs in the domestic market and the wasting of the country's economic resources, meagre as they are without that. Inasmuch as Egypt's imports are three times as high as exports, its trade balance has reached an unprecedented figure of over 4 billion dollars.

Furthermore, the state budget deficit is increasing from year to year and so is the rate of inflation which averages yearly 25 percent.

To combat the numerous ills of the Egyptian economy, the article says, it is necessary, first of all, to abandon the "open-door" policy and to adopt economic planning again. The government should cut short the activities of parasitic circles, ban any import transactions by the private sector, impose limitations on the operations of Western trading firms and banks and take steps against contraband trade. Emphasis must be placed on an urgent solution of numerous social problems affecting the working people, the article says.

ISRAELI MINISTER CONFIRMS SETTLEMENT PLANS TO CONTINUE

LD021410 Moscow TASS in English 1219 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, April 2, TASS--Israel has no intention of leaving occupied Arab lands. A statement made in Knesset (parliament) by Israeli Minister of Agriculture Sharon shows that the construction of Israeli militarised settlements in the Western Bank of the Jordan River will not be halted. Quite the contrary, it will continue. According to the latest data, Israel built some 110 settlements in the occupied Arab lands over twelve years.

In answer to Sharon's statement, Communist Deputy Taufik Tubi condemned Israel's annexationist policy. He said that over 30 years of the existence of the Israeli state, 170 thousand hectares of land was taken only from Bedouins in the Negev Desert. Wholesale expropriation of lands from the native Arab population attests to Israel's expansionism.

MORE ON IRANIAN EVENTS, STATE STRUCTURE REFERENDUM

Rassadin Report

LD302242 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2015 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The national referendum on the country's future state system began today in Iran. Tehran residents began going to the voting booths this morning. These voting booths are located mainly in schools and mosques. The voters are invited to answer "yes" or "no" to an Islamic republic, whose constitution will be adopted by the people. Our cooresponden dent Leonid Rassadin reports:

[Rassadin] Together with a group of local and foreign journalists I visited a voting booth in a building of the residence of the Iranian prime minister. Mehdi Bazargan, the head of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, voted there. In a conversation with me after voting, he said that like millions of Iranians he had carried out his civic duty in accordance with his conscience and convictions. I am sure, Mehdi Bazargan continued, that as a result of the referendum an important impulse will be given to the further development of the Iranian revolution. There is no doubt that the new regime in Iran will be a democratic one, he stressed.

The national referendum in Iran will last for 2 days. Its results will be known in the first half of April. However, even now the consensus here is that the overwhelming majority of the Iranian people will vote in favor of the proclamation of an Islamic republic. The immense importance of the referendum, a local observer notes, is that it will legally enshrine the victory of the people's revolution in Iran which ended the despotic and oppressive regime which had turned the country into an object of exploitation and a stronghold of foreign imperialism.

Iran is now going through a complex stage of changes. This is primarily because of the difficult process of the establishment of the new authorities in an atmosphere of unceasing intrigues by imperialism and reaction. The people of Iran, who this year have ushered in their first spring of freedom for many years, are also fully determined to rebuff any sallies by the counterrevolution.

Proclamation of Islamic Republic

LD021614 Moscow TASS in English 1545 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, April 2, TASS--The popular referendum two-day ended in the proclamation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the referendum, the overwhelming majority of Iranians voted to liquidate the hateful regime of the monarchy and to establish a republic. 98 percent of the country's population above the age of 16 took part in this major exercise of political will. Of these, 97 percent said "yes" to the republican form of government. Ayatollah Khomeyni, in addressing the nation, congratulated all Iranians with the final victory over the shah tyranny and proclaimed the April 1st--the date of the proclamation of the republic--to be the day of the revolution. He appealed to the country's population to give support to the measures being taken by the Provisional Government and todisplay high vigilance in order to disrupt the designs of the enemies of the revolution.

Mass meetings and demonstrations are taking place all over the country whose participants welcome the proclamation of the republic. The local press points out that the results of the referendum will, doubtless, serve the cause of further stabilisation of the situation in the country and play an important role in consolidating the unity of the Iranian people.

Mowcow Persian on Draft Constitution

LD022030 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

[Igor Savchenko commentary: "The Draft of the New Iranian Constitution Is Being Prepared"]

[Text] Dear listeners, the Soviet people received with great interest the information contained in the interview by Sadeq Tabataba'i, the Iranian deputy interior minister, which has been published in the Soviet press and describing the main principles of the new Iranian draft constitution. The immense importance of this document in the life of Iran is very clear. The constitution ought to define the political feature of the government which is to be built over the ruins of the shah's antiquated regime which was toppled by the people. The previous regime has left an ominous legacy behind in this area. Monarchic Iran was a huge prison in which many of the country's citizens and nationalities whose right of national existence was being violated were incarcerated. The fascist proimperialist regime tried to exterminate the meaning of democracy and human rights and liberties from the minds and hearts of the Iranians. The truly patriotic parties had no choice but to embark on very secret activities since membership in them carried the death penalty.

The secret police, SAVAK, which operated under the leadership of the CIA, used to commit barbaric tortures on the patriots; the SAVAK brutalities cost Iran the lives of 3 million of its best sons and daughters. The revolution, which took place thanks to the unity of all patriotic and democratic forces, brought Iran out of the dark abyss of these barbarities. Now these forces are firmly resolved to lay down the foundation of all the social and political aspects of Iran's life on democracy, and rightly and appropriately believe that this is a prerequisite for the successful solution of the country's vital and urgent issues.

The approval of Iran's new constitution by the constituent assembly to be elected for this particular task should be the most important measure in the country's march toward democracy. According to reports, the draft constitution is to be published in 2 weeks. The deputy interior minister of Iran acquainted Iranian and world social circles with only some points of the country's draft constitution. But based on these points, an image of the future Iranian constitution can be seen. It is appropriate to point out that the government intends to guarantee the personal liberties and social rights of all Iranian individuals. According to the country's deputy interior minister the draft constitution does not recognize the slightest restriction on the life and activity of national and religious minorities. They will have the right to elect autonomous local organs and expand their national culture and language. This point bears great significance in a multinational country like Iran.

The lack of restrictions enacted by the previous regime can, under the new constitution, contribute to the establishment of truly fraternal cooperation between various nationalities. The predicted realization of the just rights of the country's various political forces, the right of freedom of belief, freedom of assembly and formation of parties in the new constitution is of immense significance.

The victory of Iran's revolution is a result of the common struggle and unity among the various patriotic forces of Iran. It is natural that their unity can and ought to bear excellent fruits, not only in the struggle for toppling the monarchic despotism but also in the creation of a new life in Iran.

Pressure for Shah's Extradition

LD301922 Moscow TASS in English 1806 GMT 30 Mar 79 LD

["Statement by Iranian Spokesman"--TASS headline]

[Text] Tehran, March 30, TASS--A spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry said today that the Iranian Government had not given up its decision to press for the extradition of the former Shah Reza Pahlavi irrespective of the country of his refuge. Iran will demand Reza Pahlavi's extradition to the lawful Iranian authorities, he said. The former shah must stand trial for his crimes against the Iranian people.

This statement was made by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in connection with a report by the Moroccan radio that the former Iranian shah had left Morocco for the Bahamas where he plans to settle permanently.

Government-Turkoman Talks

LD011958 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 29 Mar 79 LD

[Text] It is reported from Tehran that a government mission is in Gonbad-e Kavus negotiating a cease-fire with the Turkomans living there. The Turkoman national minority, which comprises 1 million people, is demanding autonomy. The government is promising to grant national minorities the same rights that it recently (?promised) to grant the Kurds.

KUWAIT INCREASES PRICE OF CRUDE OIL 9 PERCENT

LD011722 Moscow TASS in English 0743 GMT 1 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, April 1, TASS--A spokesman for the Oil Ministry of Kuwait has announced that in keeping with the recent OPEC resolutions on a nine percent increase in the price of oil as of April 1 this year, Kuwait oil will cost 15 dollars 20 cent a barrel (one barrel is equal to 159 litres). Kuwait is also expected to increase its price of natural gas to bring its cost into line with the cost of exported oil.

COMMENTARY PRAISES EFFORTS OF IRAQI CP ON ANNIVERSARY

LD312006 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 31 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "45 Years Since the Establishment of the Iraqi Communist Party"]

[Text] Nationalist progressive forces in the Iraqi Republic and in the other Arab countries today celebrate a memorable event: the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the Iraqi Communist Party [ICP]. The creation of this party was a historic necessity dictated by the growth of the national liberation struggle of the Iraqi people and the development of the consciousness of the Iraqi proletariat. This event was of great importance for the process of further unifying all Iraqi workers, whatever their individual views and opinions, within a unified front for the struggle to overthrow the then reactionary proimperialist regime in Iraq.

Throughout the years of their effective action, the Iraqi communists always been in the frontline of the national liberation struggle of their people. The heroic struggle of the ICP for a free homeland and a happy people required heavy sacrifices from the party. Both the imperialists and the reactionaries ruthlessly repressed the activity of the Communist Party, throwing thousands of communists in jails.

Many communists paid with their lives for their progressive convictions.

However, despite cruel repression the ICP continued the struggle, leading the people toward the national liberation revolution which broke out in July 1958.

Furthermore, the Iraqi communists were the first to call for economic and social changes in the interest of the working class, and many of the changes that have been brought about can be credited to the Iraqi communists.

Reviewing the events of the last 20 years of the Iraqi revolution convinces one that this revolution achieved its biggest successes when the Iraqi national and patriotic forces worked as one. Therefore, one of the main directions of the Iraqi Communist Party over many years is summed up in the struggle to unite all the anti-imperialist national forces in the country.

This struggle led several years ago to the agreement on close cooperation between the ruling Ba'th Party in Iraq and the Communist Party within the context of the National Progressive Front of all political forces in the country. This event won the high appreciation of the friends of the Iraqi people. On this occasion the CPSU Central Committee sent a greetings cable to Comrade Aziz Muhammad, first secretary of the ICP, which said: The establishment of the National Front of democratic and national parties in Iraq constitutes an important joint contribution of the Iraqi communists and other patriots to the cause of developing democracy in Iraq and the achievement of social and economic changes in the country.

Over the many years since the establishment of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front in Iraq the ICP has made all efforts to serve the lofty ideals of the broad masses of the Iraqi people. The Iraqi communists continue to lead the struggle for the elimination of all traces of the Israeli aggression and the realization of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and against the aggressive neocolonialist intrigues of imperialism and international Zionism. It must be said that the Soviet communists and all Soviet people have deep sympathy for the Iraqi communists in their struggle for the happiness of their people. The Soviet Union also highly appreciates the efforts of the Iraqi Communist Party in the struggle against any show of hostility to the Soviets and against attempts to undermine and weaken Iraqi-Soviet friendship and cooperation and the close strategic alliance between the struggling Arab peoples and their biggest friendship ally, the Soviet people.

Comrade Aziz Muhammad confirmed in his speech in Moscow during the celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of Great October that the alliance between the national liberation movement of peoples and the forces of international socialism, to which Great October gave birth, had become the most important guarantee for the victory of peoples in their struggle for national social and economic liberation and for a better life in the shadow of peace. Today, too, the Iraqi and Soviet communists are doing everything necessary for the comprehensive consolidation of this strategic alliance which responds to the national interests and aspirations of the peoples of the two friendly countries and to the interests of the anti-imperialist liberation struggle waged by other Arab peoples.

The CPSU Central Committee said in its greetings to the Iraqi communists on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of their party that it regarded the consolidation of the links of Iraqi-Soviet friendship and cooperation as an important introduction to the successful struggle for the achievement of the national aspirations of the Iraqi people. The CPSU Central Committee wished the Iraqi communists success in consolidating links with the working masses and the coming together of nationalist and patriotic forces in Iraq in the name of progress and prosperity for the friendly Iraqi people.

45th Anniversary Marked

LD312218 Moscow TASS in English 2102 GMT 31 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Baghdad, March 31, TASS--Today is 45 years since the founding of the Iraqi Communist Party. Throughout the period the Iraqi Communist Party has been invariably struggling for the rallying of the national patriotic forces of the Arabs for a bright future of the working people of Iraq. The vanguard role of the Iraqi communists and their firm principled stand have won respect and recognition among the broadest sections of the country's population.

The Iraqi Communist Party invariably comes out for deeper cooperation among all national forces of society, for progressive socio-economic transformations and democratization of the country's socio-political life.

The Iraqi communists firmly and consistently pursue the course towards further development of all-round relations between the friendly peoples of Iraq and the Soviet Union in accordence with the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, signed in Baghdad in 1972. They view the Communist Party of the Soviet Union as the leading force of world revolutionary process and as genuine ally of Arab peoples in their just struggle.

The celebration of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi Communist Party acquires a special importance these days when Arab countries are being subjected to increased attacks on the part of the forces of imperialist and reaction the weekly AL-FIKR AL-JADID, organ of the Iraqi Communist Party writes today. Those forces are trying to bring about a split in the ranks of Arab liberation forces.

The Iraqi communists the weekly emphasizes, have always regarded national unity and progressive forces' alliance on a democratic basis as the main condition for a successful struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The Iraqi Communist Party has always called for the strengthening of inter-Arab solidarity in the [word indistinct] of achieving national democratic unity and has invariably struggled [words indistinct] of Zionism for the (?achievement) of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine who have an inalienable right to returnto their native land and to create an independent state of their own, AL-FIKR AL-JADID writes in conclusion.

COMMENTARY CONTINUES ON UPCOMING RHODESIAN ELECTIONS

Criticism of U.S. Observer Group

LD030148 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[(Viktor Yenikeyev) commentary]

[Excerpts] The United States Congress has decided to send a group of private observers to the Rhodesian elections scheduled for the 20th of this month. Here's what (Viktor Yenikeyev) writes:

The United States administration and Congress differ over the advisability of sending observers to the Rhodesian election organized by the illegal Smith regime. According to United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, the country's highest legislative body has made an irregular political decision. The group to go to Rhodesia will include some 25 to 50 congressmen. It will inform the United States administration whether the election was free and just. The American legislators' decision prompted serious criticism not only abroad, but also in the United States. Secretary of State Cyprus Vance himself has noted that peace in Rhodesia can be insured only by an election sponsored by the United Nations and with the participation of national liberation movements that represent the majority of Rhodesia's black population and express its interests.

In the meantime preparations for the show staged by Smith and the black members of the transitional government, Bishop Muzorewa, Pastor Sithole and Chief Chirau, are in full swing, although they are more like a large-scale military action than preparations for a free election. Virtually all of Rhodesia is under a state of siege and a curfew has been decreed. The army is taking more recruits from the ages of 50 to 59. Police detachments and army units are taking special training. According to Smith and his followers, these measures will insure law and order and also freedom and justice at the election.

Under the circumstances the American congressmen's task won't be easy. They'll have to be unusually vigilant to spot injustice at the Smith-staged election, because the Rhodesian soldiers and police, armed with American weapons, will do their best to make the show look good, to both the sponsors and guests from across the ocean. The fact that the racist election is viewed by the United Nations and the overwhelming majority of countries as illegal obviously doesn't bother American legislators. They seem to have their own opinion on (?this score), which by the way is close to that of Ian Smith. The United States is among the few Western countries that have declined at the United Nations to condemn the racist white minority regime in Rhodesia.

ZAPU Condemns U.S.-UK Plans

LD310158 Moscow in Shona to Rhodesia 1600 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Zimbabwe liberation movements have strongly condemned the British and American intentions of holding an all-parties conference following the Rhodesian elections of 20 April. This statement was issued in Lusaka by the Zimbabwe African People's Union, one wing of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe. The statement says that this Anglo-American announcement was a trick to con the people into accepting the perpetuation of the racist administration in Rhodesia. For some time now, it has been obvious that the British and American governments are intent on supporting the regime of Ian Smith. Therefore, they are largely responsible for the massacre of innocent civilians by the government of the tobacco farmers.

They are also largely responsible for the agreement reached between the tobacco farmers and some of the African leaders in the country. The statement goes on to say that Smith's plans for the elections, together with the call by the British and Americans for a conference, are designed to deceive the world and divert the attention from the true liberation struggle now taking place in the country.

SMITH REGIME RESPONSIBLE FOR ZIMBABWE'S DIFFICULTIES

LD310156 Moscow in Shona to Rhodesia 1600 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Station commentary: "One Year of the Rhodesian Transitional Government"]

[Text] It has now been slightly over a year since the establishment of the sham administration that is currently running Rhodesia. Here is a comment about its activities by our news analyst Vyacheslav Vladimirov:

The settler administrators in Salisbury believed that the internal agreement would solve two of their most pressing problems in the life of the country. With regard to the first problem, they thought that there would be an end to the war of liberation now being spearheaded by the alliance of the Patriotic Front. Concerning the second problem, they hoped that economic sanctions would be lifted. All this was promised verbally, but real actions have shown that the story is quite different.

The greater majority of the black people of Zimbabwe made their stand clear with an emphatic no to all the agreements entered into by the black renegades--Muzorewa, Sithole, and Chirau. These three joined together to help the white minority administration continue its illegal role. Many people of Zimbabwe are being killed every day by bands of zealous scouts and mercenaries from the Western countries. The blood of these innocent and defenseless civilians now stains the hands of Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau because of their help to the regime through the agreement they signed with the white foreman Ian Smith. Their new constitution is designed to continue the wishes of the white minority in the country. There is nothing in the new constitution that promotes the interests of the black people, the majority and the indigenous inhabitants of Zimbabwe. Serious hardships together with the continued enslavement of the Zimbabwean people continue to be the order of the day. The working of the Executive Council in Rhodesia is responsible for the atrocities now taking place in the country.

The economic strife in the country has become even worse: the country now has a debt of $360 million. Many factories are closing and some are failing to produce the required items for the prosperity of the country. This downward trend has been noticeable since 1971. Agricultural output is decreasing: unemployment and inflation are running at the annual level of 10 percent higher than any country in the world. The general welfare of many Africans is daily worsening.

What are the reasons for these hardships in Rhodesia, once the white man's paradise? The wealth of the country has been wasted on the war, and on the buying and manufacturing of weapons. For many years, the Rhodesian administration has been relying on its soldiers to stay in power. The army leaders now never go on leave. The military budget in the last 4 years has increased by 3.5 percent, or by $1.5 million per day. These are the fruits of the so-called Executive Council of Rhodesia. This council has failed to resolve the problems that afflict the people in the country. Smith and his sellout friends believe that oppression and murder will help them to stay in power.

This wretched regime is coming to an end because every child of Zimbabwe wants to see the total liberation and complete independence of his country. The fighting by the forces of the Patriotic Front alliance has now reached a crucial phase in the political struggle in Zimbabwe. The racists have only a few days left.

WEST REFUSES TO EMPLOY SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

LD300940 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2180 GMT 29 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The UN Security Council has condemned the racist South African regime for its premeditated, stubborn and incessant military actions against the People's Republic of Angola. Also, the resolution, which was adopted by the Security Council at the end of a discussion of Angola's complaints about South African aggression, resolutely condemns the use of Namibia's territory as a springboard for armed incursions into Angola. This document points out that Waldheim, UN secretary general, is preparing the necessary data to determine the extent of effective sanctions against the Pretoria regime and will be concluded by 30 April.

In the voting on this resolution, the delegations of the United States, Britain and France abstained. It must be noted that such a position has become characteristic of the West's policy with regard to southern Africa. While verbally fighting for peace and stability in this region, the Western countries regularly turn their heads, as they say, when it is a question of the aggressive policy of racist regimes. This month alone the Republic of South Africa has undertaken 17 armed provocations against Angola. But the Western peacemakers do not consider it necessary to call the (?explosive) racists to account. Moreover, they make use of their right of veto constantly in order to prevent the Security Council from adopting a resolution calling for comprehensive and effective sanctions against the criminal regime of South Africa.

This time the United States of America, Britain and France tried to explain their position in the voting by the fact that, as they said, too harsh a position by the United Nations with regard to the Republic of South Africa would hamper the talks with it on the implemention of the UN plan for Namibia. But these apologies for arguments do not stand up to any criticism; for Pretoria has publicly rejected the UN plan. Moreover, the multilateral talks on Namibia--which were held on the initiative of the Western countries in New York at the same time as the Security Council was discussing Angola's complaint--ended without result, and this was again due to Pretoria's unwillingness to adopt this plan. The escalation of aggressive actions against Angola bears this out.

Thus, the dealing in slogans of peace conceals the Western powers' unwillingness to apply the necessary sanctions against the Republic of South Africa envisaged by the UN Charter. In the final analysis, the West's tactics are aimed at preserving the racist status quo in southern Africa, including the use of force.

COMMENTARY REAFFIRMS STRONG TIMES WITH MOZAMBIQUE

LD312318 Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 31 Mar 79 LD

[Vladislav Chernukha commentary]

[Text] The 31st of March is the second anniversary of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Mozambique. Here's tribute by Radio Moscow commentator Vladislav Chernukha:

The treaty became a natural extension of the friendly relations between the two countries. These relations were established years ago, when the people of Mozambique were waging an armed struggle against Portuguese colonialists. The Soviet Union was giving them all-round support and assistance, just as it is giving it to all colonial peoples. After Mozambique became independent the two countries signed a number of agreements on trade and economic and cultural cooperation. The treaty of friendship and cooperation has helped to further develop the relations between the two countries successfully. These relations are based on mutual respect and sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in one another's internal affairs and equality. The Soviet Union is guided by the same principles in its relations with other developing countries. It's proved in its practical policies that it does not look for one-sided advantages and does not desire to create strongholds for imposing its influence. The Soviet policies have absolutely no goals of expansion, conquest or subjugation. For exactly this reason, the Soviet Union helped Ethiopia to repel an aggression launched against it by Somalia with the support of NATO countries and the Chinese rulers. For precisely this reason too the Soviet Union helped Angola to repel an attack by racist South Africa, which was likewise supported by NATO countries and China.

The Soviet Union strongly opposed a NATO intervention in Zaire and resolutely denounced the Chinese armed aggression against Vietnam. The Soviet Union demands a stop to acts of provocation by racist South Africa and Rhodesia against Mozambique and neighboring countries. The Soviet Union and the developing countries are united by the struggle for peace against aggression. They are also struggling together against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and racism and apartheid. In this joint struggle, the union of the forces of peace, socialism and national liberation is getting stronger. One forceful display of that is the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between the Soviet Union and Mozambique 2 years ago today.

USSR JUSTICE MINISTER LEAVES TO ATTEND MALI PARTY CONGRESS

LD301217 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Delegation's Departure"]

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by V.I. Terebilov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of justice, left for the Republic of Mali 26 March to participate in the constituent congress of the Malian People's Democratic Union Party.

CENTRAL ASIAN MUFTI PRAISES LIFE OF MUSLIMS IN USSR

LD022140 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 1 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Dear listeners, a great number of you have asked us if freedom of belief exists in the Soviet Union and how and where Muslims live in the Soviet Union. Do they perform religious duties and are there any relations between Soviet Muslims and Muslims in other lands?

Our correspondent met with Mufti Ziyautdin Babakhanov, the mufti of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. He asked him to answer these questions. The mufti said: [begin recording]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: thanks be to God; peace be upon his servants. I am happy to talk about the life of Muslims in the Soviet Union. I was elected by the Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan as their mufti after the death of my father, may God have mercy on his soul.

As the mufti of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, I say that Muslims live in all regions of the Soviet Union, but most of them live east of the river where I lead the Muslims. Muslims also live in Siberia and in European Russia and their leader is Mufti Abdul 'Bari Isayev, who now resides in the town of Ufa.

Muslims also live in Azerbaijan and they are led by Shaykh al-Islam. Muslims also live in Dagestan, and in the areas beyond Dagestan there are many Muslim nationalities. [several names indistinct] All of them belong to Muslim nationalities which adhere to the Islamic faith. They are headed by Mufti (Mahmud), who graduated from the school of Bukhara.

Mosques in the Soviet Union are in accordance with the number of Muslims in the entire country. For example, in Tashkent there are 12 grand mosques and 100 small mosques. In Samarkand, there are 3 grand mosques and 15 small ones. In Bukhara there are 4 grand mosques and more than 10 small mosques. And in other Muslim areas such as Tadzhikistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenia, and Kirgizia there are grand and small mosques. There are more than 200 mosques. And according to Mufti Abdul 'Bari Isayev there are over 1,000 grand and small mosques in Siberia and the European part of the USSR. The number of mosques in Azerbaijan, according to Deputy Mufti (Allah Shukr) is 200 grand and small mosques. The number of mosques in Dagestan, according to Mufti (Mahmud), is approximately 300 grand and small mosques.

The Muslims have their own Muslim laws. In fact, the Holy Koran and the prophet's teachings are the Islamic law. As for the government law, it is the new Constitution. In this Constitution Article 52 says that the freedom of belief and the freedom to perform religious rites are guaranteed to all citizens of the Soviet Union. This article permits us to perform the rites of Islam, to say prayers on Fridays, which attracts a great congregation, and the five daily prayers in all mosques. The prayers marking the two Muslim festivals are attended by a great number of people--men, women, children and young men.

Solemnizing marriage and holding a marriage (?ceremony) are held and in every mosque there is a special house for solemnizing marriage; after registering the young couple in the government registry office they come to the mosque. There the imam makes a speech, reads from the Koran and preaches to them about Islamic instructions. He then issues the marriage certificate. Among the religious rites we also have the sacrifice prayer. Muslims perform this prayer, and usually a large number of people attend.

Some of the Muslims make pilgrimages during the holy months and particularly during the month of Dhu al-Hijjah. People slaughter sheep as a sacrifice in their homes to mark the sacrifice festival. They hold sacrifice banquets in their homes.

All these religious rites are permitted by the government. The government does not interfere or exert pressure in the performance of these rites in any republic east of the river. We also have a religious magazine. It is published, printed and distributed in all regions of the world. We have printed five editions of the Holy Koran. We distributed it in all regions of the world and the Soviet Union, the Arab and Islamic world. We also printed the religious reference book by Imam al-Bukhari, may God be pleased with him, because his book "As-Sahih" is the most authentic book after the Holy Koran. We also printed the book of Imam al-Bukhari "Al-Adab al-Mufrad" and circulated it among Muslims.

In any event, Muslims in the Soviet Union live a free life. There is no pressure or ban by the Government of the Soviet Union regarding Muslims performing their religious rites, or printing the Koran or religious books. We thank the leaders of the Soviet Union for permitting Soviet Muslims to perform their religious rites, prayers and Koran recitations; the solemnizing of marriages and all other religious rites are permitted in the Soviet Union.

I would also like to add a few more words. The socialist government has its laws. These laws are (?promulgated) and used in the Soviet Union. In these laws it is written that mosques and churches are separate from the state. The state is separated from religion. Therefore, socialist laws do not interfere in religious affairs and religious affairs do not interfere in socialist laws. And this is why Soviet Muslims live a life of comfort, ease and tolerance as a result of these socialist laws.

Religious relations between the Soviet Muslims and all the Arab and Islamic countries are close. They have existed for the past 30 years, particularly the religious relations between Central Asia and Kazakhstan with all the Arab countries--Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and especially Pakistan, Hindustan, Bangladesh and other Asian countries. The connection is strong between the religious administration of Central Asia and Kazakhstan and all the countries I have just mentioned.

A short time ago, I returned from Saudi Arabia. I had been invited to attend the conference of the Supreme Council of World Mosques held in Holy Mecca. I took part in the sessions of this conference and I had talks with the ulemas who attended. I took with me to Holy Mecca pictures and information on our new and old mosques [remainder of sentence indistinct].

Regarding our contact with Egypt, for example, I have studied at the Al-Azhar University and my son Shamsutdin also graduated from Al-Azhar University. All those who serve with us at the religious administration have graduated from Al-Azhar University. And now two students from the higher institutes, such as the Imam Bukhari Institute in Tashkent, are studying there. There are students who are currently studying in many countries such as Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Syria.

The Supreme Council of World Mosques adopted the decision that all universities in Arab and Islamic countries must accept as students the sons of Soviet Muslims. This decision was sent to all the Islamic and Arab universities and governments, and this decision was also taken by us. God is the best knower of all. Peace be with you.

VIOLATIONS OF HOUSING LEGISLATION IN TBILISI CONDEMNED

LD021023 [Editorial Report LD] Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian on 24 March frontpages under the headline "Imposing State Order in the Exchange of Housing," a 1,700-word GRUZINFORM report on a Georgian CP Central Committee resolution examining the "question of the serious shortcomings and blatant violations occurring in the exchange of housing in Tbilisi." The report criticizes the "unsatisfactory work" of the Tbilisi Gorispolkom Housing Department housing exchange bureau, noting that "laxity in monitoring has meant that all kinds of middlemen who have transformed the exchange of apartments into a source of personal gain have flourished." The report names various people (all CPSU members) guilty of "violating the housing legislation" and states that former officials of the housing exchange bureau "did not combat the shortcomings, took a conciliatory view of the abuses and participated themselves in illegal exchanges." The report also criticizes "administrative organs" for their "conciliatory attitude toward violations of housing legislation." The report concludes by listing the measures taken against the people named and a number of other organizational and political measures "to impose strict state order in the exchange of housing."

MATERIAL, MORAL INCENTIVES FOR SOCIALIST COMPETITION

LD031324 Moscow TASS in English 1140 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 3, TASS--TASS commentator Petr Lidin writes: The Red Banner of the winner in the all-union socialist emulation was presented to the personnel of Gorbachyov mine, one of the biggest mines of the Karaganda coal fields (Soviet Kazakhstan). The coal miners work excellently, developing socialist emulation. They provide the country with 15-20 thousand tons of coal in excess of the plan every month.

As a result of the emulation, the Soviet economy gets additional amounts of coal. And what does the emulation bring to the very participants--workers, technicians and engineers? In the Soviet Union there exists a variety of forms of moral and material incentives to workers who achieve successes in socialist emulation. A book of honour, with the names of the best mineworkers entered in it, has been instituted at the Gorbachyov mine, for example. For successes of last year's emulation, twenty leading workers there were awarded the "honorary mineworker" title and about 30 people were awarded the "mineworker's glory" honorary badge which is worn alongside orders and medals.

Material incentives to the winners of emulation are not in the last place. The best mineworkers of the mine last year received an aggregate of 103,000 roubles, or about 150,000 dollars, as bonuses in addition to their wages. There also exist other forms of encouragement of the leading workers in socialist emulation. Apart from a bonus, the leading worker may be awarded a valuable present, for example, a month-long sanatorium accomodation free of charge, a motorcycle, a passenger car. He may be mentioned in a citation which is brought to the general notice. He can be awarded a certificate of honour which will be kept in the family as a relic. Finally, the most excelling workers are awarded government orders and medals, for outstanding services in work, and for record-high indicators in socialist emulation the best of the best are awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour. Together with the diploma certifying the honorary title, the hero is awarded the top distinction of the USSR--the Order of Lenin and the Gold Medal "Sickle and Hammer."

MORE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY RESOURCES NECESSARY

LD030755 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 79 p 2 LD

[Sergey Bogatko: "Economic Review": "The Energy of Creation"]

[Text] Energy is the basis of action. However, it is important not only to increase power resources more quickly, but also to use it in the best possible way. That is, an improvement can be achieved by increasing the available power supply, or else by reducing its expenditure to reasonable limits. These processes are, on the surface, contradictory, but they do have a common purpose. So let us look first at the income side of the balance, and then....

The State Budget--in Calories?

Yes, it is quite possible that the time will come when the state budget is expressed not in terms of money, but in calories or joules--according to the various types of energy. Of course, it is not an easy calculation, because the calories contained in, for instance, bread, are more expensive than those in coal. But farsighted economists have already grasped the fact that it is now fuel which dictates prices.

However, let us not hurry to shatter habitual ideas. We obtain a good 2 billion tons of conventional fuel a year. This is more than 20 percent of world consumption. However, the energy balance has now become strained. Difficulties have been created by not restricted resources, but by the rapid increase in energy consumption. The situation was particularly exacerbated during the cold spell in the new year. Although such frosts are considered extremely rare in the Central Zone, this winter's lessons must be remembered.

The situation was also complicated by the fact that 25 percent fewer new units were commissioned then were planned in 1978, thus circumstances arose under which calories could not be bought for love or money.

A series of decisions have been adopted recently, aimed at successfully developing the fuel and energy complex. A special role is allotted to electricity, which is, as V.I. Lenin defined it, the base upon which we will build everything. This base does not come cheaply. Electricity is one of the most expensive forms of energy, but also the best--in terms of its universality, cleanliness and convenience in every respect, except, maybe, storage.... The fuel and energy complex as a whole swallows up one-third of state capital investments. That is why it is important to thoroughly analyze how efficiently we produce energy.

A great deal is determined by the actual composition of the energy balance. Thus oil brings the biggest gains. Increasing its proportion in the structure of the national economic complex yields a saving of R1 billion. Or rather, it could produce such a result, because it is still necessary to use petroleum products economically. Prices for "black gold" in the world market have increased fourfold or fivefold recently and are continuing to do so. The purchaser does not hesitate but takes it--the value the consumer places on oil is too great.

A beneficial influence is being exerted on the economy by the rapidly growing gas supply system. During the 5-year plan period the extraction of this raw material will have increased 50 percent.

Of course, here too we must expend considerable resources and energy, because these reserves are located in the far north and in Central Asia and the gas must be taken from increasingly deep deposits. Natural gas is beginning to be used increasingly widely as an industrial raw material and the volume of its traditional consumer use is increasing--in cities and villages the number of apartments provided with "blue gold" will increase from 57 to 75-80 percent over the 5 years.

Today the hydroelectric power stations created in past 5-year plans are working for us successfully. The Bratskaya GES has already recouped five fold the resources spent on it. It generates up to 28 billion kilowatt-hours annually--more than any other hydroelectric power station in the world. The installation was considered exemplary as it was, yet engineers are tirelessly improving the GES and as a result of modernization they have increased its capacity by another 400 megawatts.

It proved possible to reduce fuel expenditure on the production of each kilowatt-hour of electricity by 8 grams in the first 3 years of the 5-year plan. This represents a saving of 15 million tons of coal. This year power workers are set the task of reducing the average expenditure per kilowatt-hour to 328 grams, that is, achieving the target planned for the end of the 5-year plan. It is interesting to note that compared with 1928 fuel expenditure will have been reduced by 60 percent.

Economic paths are not simple: There are many contradictions and unexploited potentialities here. One GRES has splendid indicators, another has considerably worse indicators. But systems dispatchers do not hurry to draw conclusions. The point is that the former was working to supply basic demand [bazis], with an even load, and the latter was switched on to cover "peak," and its expenditure is nearly twice as high. But the ex-power plant price per kilowatt-hour, formally laid down, is the same for night energy, which runs to waste, as for energy in the evening, which is in desperately short supply. This does not discourage the consumer from loading capacities at times when there is a surplus on the network. Dispatchers have to use not economic levers, but heavyhanded methods--threatening disconnection.

A favorable fuel and energy balance is a matter not solely for power workers, miners or oilworkers. The link between producers and consumers is very strong, and their roles are constantly changing. For instance, metallurgical workers complained about a shortage of energy. But this was partly because in Tyumenskaya Oblast alone there was a shortfall of 2 million tons of oil extracted because of the poor quality of drilling pipes. It is difficult to establish strict control at the plant, they say. Difficult?...In the marshes of Samotlor the Siberians had to construct test beds and build a "homemade" plant in order to rectify faulty metal goods.

The Wheels Rumble...

The romantic poet sets a cheerful verse to the rumble of railcar wheels. But the engineer's heart bleeds--he feels how the machine suffers because of those thumps. The power worker also frowns: A lot of calories are being lost there.... And if you look through an infrared image intensifier your attention is immediately drawn to the brightest spots--the junctions of rails--places where kinetic energy is turned into harmful heat.

Rails without joints--that is only one of the many problems on whose resolution our speed of movement, resources expenditure and improved living standards depend. Joints--both literally and metaphorically--are the very sectors where there is most wastage.

It is painful to see these gaps, because the 10th 5-Year Plan needs a great deal of energy. Millions of people are still engaged in heavy, low-productivity physical labor in industry, agriculture and transport; our everyday life is not sufficiently comfortable. And all this is at a time when there is an acute manpower shortage.

A campaign is now being mounted in all sectors of the national economy to mechanize subsidiary operations--that is, the most labor-intensive, warehousing and transport operations. It is possible that approximately 33 percent of the people engaged in manual labor involved in auxiliary operations could be released. Up to 20 billion extra kilowatt-hours are required for this, in addition to special equipment and organizational measures.

It is at the first stage that the greatest effect is achieved. People at the Zil plant recall that the introduction of 180 electric loaders helped release 1,500 workers. A still higher result is achieved in certain operations--a tenfold increase in labor productivity. Up to 3,500 kilowatt-hours per year are usually required to release one worker.

We will automate certain processes even if this involves an increase in expenditure--wherever working conditions are hard or unhealthy. But in the overwhelming majority of instances the appearance of new equipment in a plant means that the quality of goods rises, that labor is made easier, and that the resources used per unit of output are reduced.

Electricity consumption in daily life is growing very rapidly. Leningrad's scientists have calculated that washing clothes by hand uses as much energy as the efforts of an industrial worker engaged in physical labor. Equipping homes with all kinds of appliances and equipment makes life easier and releases time for vocational training and the harmonious development of the individual.

And once again it is necessary to return to the truism: The best economy [ekonomiya] is good work. Unfortunately, productivity growth does not everywhere contribute to reducing social expenditure. In assimilating new working methods and new building designs, construction workers failed to justify them from the viewpoint of energy efficiency or to figure in the particular features of our harsh climate and architectural traditions, although even Peter the Great's decrees noted the impermissibility of blind imitation "because frosts in our country as not like French frosts...." In the least 15 years the relative heat expenditure in housing and public buildings has increased by 50 percent. It is now necessary to fundamentally change the designs and equipment.

It must also be remembered that the domestic prices of many types of fuel are kept very low and do not cover the national economic costs. The people are begrudged nothing. the trouble lies elsewhere--the fact that these prices make no contribution to an economic incentive to save fuel and create a false idea that reserves are cheap and unlimited. Expenditure norms are often fixed without sufficient justification, are cheerfully corrected in line with the actual situation and are deliverately overstated so that it is possible later to effortlessly achieve outstanding results in "fuel savings."

Economy does not merely mean "switch off the light when you go out!" Fuel expenditure on producing 1 ton of steel using scrap metal is only 15 percent of the figure of obtaining metal from ore. A 1-percent increase in the number of diesel vehicles in the country's motor vehicle pool is equivalent to saving 1 million tons of fuel. The commissioning of the Naeberezhnyye Chelny plant with its tremendous output of engines will enable us to increase freight shipments by diesel vehicles up to 35 percent by the end of the 5-year plan. Great savings will be made by utilizing trailers and increasing the reliability and improving other technical parameters of the motor vehicle pool.

...When Watt's steam engine, puffing and breathing fire, its steel joints clanking awesomely, spun its wheel, the din sounded like the victorious music of progress. Now these features are seen as a sign of backwardness and primitive manufacture and the specifications are horrifying: I mean, good heavens, an efficiency of only 1 percent!... Smooth operation without jerks and grinding at the joints--this is the distinctive feature of modern times. Old equipment is wasteful and should be used only in emergencies to cope with peak loads. The best effect is obtained from improving production techniques and organization on the basis of the best scientific methods and up-to-date computers. Electronic equipment, like the human brain, requires relatively little energy compared with muscles, while the result is.... True, the energy must be of the best quality.

In order to live better it is necessary to work better. However, we have no right to consume everything we earn. We must devote many resources to the future--to energy research, to the quest for new sources of heat which our descendants will use. Indeed, we are also using knowledge wrought by the energy of mankind in its concern for us.

Vectors of the Future

We are greedily consuming resources which nature has stored up over billions of years. Although it would be wrong to say that we use energy extravagantly. Millions of people live in big cities not because they like the hustle and bustle but because cities can make more efficient use of energy which is constantly in short supply. If it were plentiful we could migrate comfortably back to the bosom of nature.

Long-term plans are currently being drawn up. In the next few years development will be along the lines of implementing targeted programs such as the West Siberian oil and gas complex; the assimilation of the Siberian coal potential; nuclear energy. Organic raw material resources are still great. Nevertheless, the era of fossil fuel [solnechnoye toplivo] is apparently passing its zenith. Human intellect has produced an unprecedented nuclear resource. Academician V. Kirillin believes that the first industrial thermonuclear power stations will have been constructed by the end of the century.

Of course this will not be like opening the doors to paradise. Life on our planet will change gradually just as the switch to nuclear fuel began gradually. Under the conditions of a socialist society the abundance of energy will change the techniques and structure of production and make it possible to improve the quality of all articles as well as the quality of life itself, and to solve transport and environmental conservation questions. The energy required for controlling processes will be freely available everywhere. Science and culture will flourish as never before. But immense efforts will have to be made to achieve this.

Last December a most unusual enterprise--Atommash--began to operate in Volgodonsk. It will produce parts for nuclear reactors. It was like news from the future. Building giant enterprises like this is neither easy nor cheap. But however complex the task, it will undoubtedly be solved by our willpower and our energy.

DATA ON USSR'S 1978 FOREIGN TRADE SHOW ITS IMPORTANCE

LD021544 Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 2, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Stroganov writes:

The volume of the USSR's foreign trade in 1978 amounted to more than 70 billion roubles, an increase of 10.8 percent as compared to 1977. The only recently summed up results of the Soviet Union's external economic ties in 1978 show that the assignments set by the five-year plan (1976-1980) are being exceeded. It was intended to increase foreign trade turnover during the five-year period by 33.5 percent, but the actual increment already amounts to 40 percent.

Foreign trade is an important branch of the USSR's national economy. Its purpose is to vigorously facilitate the implementation of the Soviet Union's foreign policy directed at strengthening the socialist community, consolidating friendship and cooperation with developing countries, strengthening and expanding the material base of peaceful co-existence with capitalist states. The USSR now maintains trade and economic ties with almost 120 countries of the world.

Socialist countries hold the leading place in the Soviet Union's foreign trade. Last year their share increased from 57.2 to 59.8 percent. In its turn, the USSR is the biggest trade partner of most of the fraternal states. The volume of trade with that group of countries has reached 42 billion roubles, an increase of about a third as compared to 1976.

It goes without saying that the Soviet Union has the closest economic cooperation with CMEA member-countries. On the basis of figures for last year, first place is held by the GDR. Its volume of trade with the USSR has reached 7.7 billion roubles. Then come Poland (seven billion), Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia (about 6.1 billion each), Hungary (4.8 billion) and Cuba (4.2 billion roubles).

The share of capitalist countries amounted last year to 28.1 percent of the USSR's foreign trade turnover, or almost 19.7 billion roubles. The greatest level of trade was attained with the FRG (3.3 billion roubles), Japan (2.3 billion), Finland (2.2 billion), Italy (2 billion), the United States (1.9 billion), France (1.8 billion) and Britain (1.5 billion roubles). Along with the expansion of the USSR's foreign trade with capitalist states an ever greater importance is being acquired by large-scale and long-term economic cooperation. It is based on inter-governmental agreements and programmes of economic, industrial and technical cooperation that are being concluded for ten-year and longer periods.

Principles of equality, respect of mutual interests and mutual advantage are implemented in the practice of the USSR's relations with developing states. The Soviet Union's trade turnover with these countries last year exceeded 8.5 billion roubles. The main partners were Iraq (one billion), India (771 million) and Iran (671 million roubles).

USSR SHIPPING OFFICIAL DENIES 'DUMPING' CHARGES

LD021221 [Editorial Report LD] Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish on 27 March carries on page 26 a 1,000-word dispatch from Moscow by Kjell Dragnes entitled "Our Shipping Companies Are Not Dumping on the Market in the West," which includes an interview with Soviet Deputy Minister of the Maritime Fleet Anatoliy Goldobenko. Goldobenko reportedly denies all allegations that Soviet shipping companies are underbidding Western competitors in order to get into the market. He said that allegations of dumping prices do not agree with reality and are being spread by certain shipping companies in the West for their own benefit. He points as evidence to the statistics from the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission.

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 2 APRIL

LD030628 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0200 GMT on 2 April reports that the spring sowing frontier is being extended every day. Spring sowing is already underway in Central Asia, the Transcaucasus and the North Caucasus steppes, and fieldwork is commencing in the Volga area. This spring the volume of work is considerably greater. Part of the winter crops will have to be replanted and tens of millions of hectares will be sown with early crops.

At 0205 GMT the radio says that in Moldavia early spring crop sowing has been completed. Sugar beet sowing has begun in the north of the republic. It adds that construction of the high dam of the Danube-Dnestr irrigation system has been completed, keeping seawater out of Lake Sasyk. The lake will become a large natural freshwater reservoir. Powerful pumping stations will make it possible for Danube water to irrigate 60,000 hectares. Water will pass via canals and small rivers to the Dnestr estuary, irrigating 150,000 hectares of drought-prone land in the south Black Sea area on the way.

At 0700 GMT the radio reports that in Tadzhikistan more than half of the total area has been sown to wheat, barley and oats. Northern areas have begun to sow spring crops. This year the Tadzhik farmers have pledged to produce 300,000 tons of grain.

At 0730 the radio adds that farmers of Chimkentskaya Oblast in Kazakhstan have reported the fulfillment of the grain sowing plan. They have sown barley and wheat on 100,000 hectares. In some fields first shoots have already appeared.

At 1100 GMT the radio says that the front of the sowing campaign has crossed Belorussia's southern frontier. Brestskaya Oblast's farms have begun sowing grain crops on improved lands. Machine operators are deploying machinery in various ways in the flood conditions, carrying out fieldwork on a selective basis.

It then carries a report by journalist Smirnov reviewing fieldwork. He says that in some Central Asian farms one can see today moving machines working side by side with sowing machines. Sowing and mowing are in progress together. Livestock breeding farms are getting high vitamin content verdure already in March and April. This is provided at this unusually early stage by the sowing of winter rape. Last autumn, thousands of hectares of fields were taken up by rape.

At 1200 GMT the radio reports that land cultivators of Stavropolskiy Kray, Chimkentskaya Oblast and Moldavia today reported completion of early spring crop sowing. In Stavropolskiy Kray sowing has been carried out fast and only first class seeds were used. Sowing of perennial grasses has been completed here almost at the same time as the sowing of ear crops. Work on plantations of sugar beet, corn and sunflower is ahead. The kray has pledged to produce 1.9 million tons of grain, about 100,000 tons above plan.

The radio adds that spring sowing has been carried out faster than usual in the south of Kazakhstan. Extensive utilization of the Ipatovo method was conducive to this. Farms of Alma-Atinskaya and Taldy-Kurganskaya oblasts are sowing on the last thousand hectares. Also, corn sowing machines have departed for the fields in the southern rayons of Chimkentskaya Oblast. Dzhambulskaya Oblast's cultivators are completing the sowing of sugar beet. Kazakhstan fieldworkers have decided to mark the anniversary of virgin land development by high productivity and to gather no less than 27-28 million tons of grain.

At 1600 GMT the radio reports that in Turkmenia sowing of various crops is underway in the republic. Corn, lucerne and beet have been sown on many thousands of hectares. At a recent meeting in Maryskaya Oblast pledges were adopted to produce and sell 1.17 million tons of cotton this year. The radio says that 30 percent of the area will be allotted to cotton sowing with a set quantity of seeds. The area of widerow sowing will be increased. The central task is to raise production quality and to increase in every way production of thin-fiber cottons. In the current year sowing to thin-fibers is being increased by nearly 20,000 hectares, and yield is to be increased to 20 quintals per hectare.

At 1900 GMT the radio carries a report on spring fieldwork: Many farms in Central Asia have completed sowing of early crops, corn and cotton. In south Kazakhstan, Kirgizia and Moldavia, beet planting has been completed at many farms. Mass sowing of cereal crops is in progress in Moldavia, south Ukraine and North Caucasus. Fieldwork is starting in the central Ukraine, Lower Volga area and Far East. In the Non-Chernozem Zone, dressing of winter crops is in progress. Tending of winter grain crops has been particularly necessary this year since the winter weather was unfavorable for them. Various kinds and quantities of fertilizer are being used according to the condition of the crop.

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY OFFICIAL DISCUSSES SPRING FIELDWORK

LD022214 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0905 GMT on 2 April carries a recorded talk with A.I. Zholobov, chief of the Main Administration of Grain Crops and General Problems of Agriculture of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, on the progress of fieldwork in the country. He says that really warm spring weather is prevailing in most of the European USSR. The average temperature is 2-4 degrees higher than normal. Snow has thawed earlier than usual on the fields of the Ukraine and the Central Chernozem zone of the RSFSR. Nevertheless, thawing of the soil is proceeding slowly due to deep frost. Fieldwork has started in (?Kalmytskaya ASSR) and Rostovskaya and Kirovogradskaya oblasts. Sowing of early grain crops has been carried out in an organized way in Stavropolskiy Kray, the Kuban and the southern oblasts of the Ukraine. Sowing is now in progress along the Don and in the steppe region of central Ukraine. Farms in Georgia and the south of Krasnodarskiy Kray are starting to sow main oilcrops such as sunflower. Last year, many farms growing this crop did not fulfill the plan and are now adopting measures to not only insure fulfilment of this year's plan but to correct the deficit. Expanded teams are being used to accelerate the sowing process. Farms in the southern regions of Central Asia have started sowing cotton and are sowing corn for grain. This year for the first time there is wide application of a new technological method of corn cultivation using highly effective herbicides and productive machinery with minimal tilling of the soil. Farms in the Transcaucasus, Central Asia, Moldavia, southern Ukraine and the RSFSR have started planting potatoes and early vegetables, and are carrying out work in gardens and vineyards 7-15 days earlier than last year.

COSMONAUTS CONTINUE PHYSICAL EXERCISES, TESTS, EXPERIMENTS

LD021300 Moscow TASS in English 1226 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 2, TASS--A TASS special correspondent reports from the Flight Control Centre:

Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin have been now for five weeks aboard the orbital Salyut-6 station.

On Saturday and Sunday, the cosmonauts performed sanitary-hygienic measures, did physical exercises. In accordance with the program of the exploration of the environment, the crew carried out visual observations of separate areas of the earth's surface and the world ocean. Another experiment with materials, submitted by the French side, was made on the Kristall unit.

As usual, the working day on April 2 began aboard the orbital complex at 8:00 a.m. In line with the medical examination program, the cosmonauts measured the mass of the body and the volume of muscles with a slight load in conditions of the flight. In doing the work and physical exercises, an experiment is being carried out in the course of the day, in which simultaneously with an objective examination of the state of the cardio-vascular system the crew are giving an appraisal of how they feel. The experiment is being conducted with the help of a portable instrument, which does not restrain the cosmonaut's movements.

The program of the flight of the Progress-5 freight ship within the orbital complex is drawing to a close. The equipment, regenerators, absorbers of harmful admixtures, containers for water and food products, that had been used, were carried into the ship.

Another manoeuvre to increase the height of the complex's orbit is planned to be carried out in the afternoon with the help of the power unit of the Progress-5 ship.

According to reports of the crew and data of the telemetric information, the systems aboard the scientific-research Salyut-6-Soyuz-32-Progress-5 complex are functioning normally. The parameters of the microclimate in the compartments of the complex are the following: temperature--20 degrees centigrade, pressure--770 mm of the mercury column.

The cosmonauts feel well.

BRIEFS

SIBERIAN SPACE PHYSICISTS RESEARCH--Norilsk, March 31, TASS--An expedition of Siberian space physicists today concluded its work in the peninsula Taymyr. It worked on the programme of international research of magnetosphere. Instruments set exactly along the Norilsk meridian at a stretch of 2,000 kilometres were recording throughout two months magnetic storms over Taymyr and were photographing on the film polar lights that are particularly bright in the Arctic in spring. Scientists will soon start processing scientific materials obtained from near space. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1004 GMT 31 Mar 79 LD]

ROLE OF PEOPLE'S VOLUNTARY MILITIA SQUADS STRESSED

LD020935 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Standing Guard Over Order"]

[Text] A member of the People's Voluntary Militia... This expression has entered our vocabulary in a big way. At the initiative of progressive workers, the first Voluntary People's Militia teams were created two decades ago. The patriotic initiative of the working people who acted as vigorous champions of exemplary social discipline met with broad party support. Today millions of Soviet people participate in the preservation of socialist law and order in the country's cities and villages.

The Communist Party and our state display constant concern for strengthening legality and educating all citizens in a spirit of conscious discipline and strict observance of the rules of socialist communal life. This is a matter not only for the state organs but also for the entire public and broad working masses. As the country's masters they are vitally interested in insuring that a beneficial moral atmosphere exists everywhere and that hooliganism, drunkenness, embezzlement and other phenomena alien to us--the antipodes of communist morality--are eradicated more rapidly.

The level of people's awareness and civil responsibility is playing an increasingly important part in the development of our society. Noting this, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said: "Respect for the law, must become the personal conviction of every person. Any attempts to deviate from, or to circumvent the law, whatever the motive, cannot be tolerated. Nor can violations of the rights of the individual or infringement of citizens' dignity be tolerated. For us communists, the supporters of the most humane ideals, this is a matter of principle."

As a rule the People's Militia includes leading representatives of the labor collectives. They not only help safeguard public order but also take part in the propaganada of Soviet laws and themselves serve as an example of high morality. That is why the People's Militia teams enjoy deserved authority and the population's complete trust. In recent years their ranks have strengthened organizationally and have been swelled by communists and Komsomol members, and these voluntary formations have become an important manifestation of the working people's social activity. The inalienable principle of socialist democracy--citizens' assistance in preserving law and order--is enshrined in the country's Constitution.

"The USSR citizen," Article 65 states, "must respect the rights and legitimate interests of other people and be implacable toward antisocial actions and promote the preservation of public order." This constitutional provision is being implemented increasingly fully and is becoming the norms of Soviet people's behavior. And one of the many confirmations of this is the mass movement of the People's Voluntary Militia. Activists with red armbands go out to their posts ready at any minute to join in the struggle against law violators and hooligans, and to defend citizens' honor and dignity. Many of the People's Militia members have already been vigilantly performing their honorable service as the public's guardians of order for two decades. The veterans include M. Baryshnikov, a fitter at the Moscow projector plant, M. Varetekhin, foreman at the Leningrad Bolshevik plant, V. Golukh, a tool setter from Kremenchug, B. Orazmukhamedov an engineer from Nebit-Dag and others.

It is essential to pay constant attention to the consolidation of social discipline, the observance by all citizens of their obligations to society, and the eradication of crime. The daily educational and preventive work which the labor collectives, deputies, militia organs and public law and order preservation centers perform should also be aimed at this. Great tasks also face the People's Voluntary Militia members. Preventing law-breaking, averting trouble, restraining someone in time from taking the wrong step--that is their main concern. That is how the capital's Pervomayskiy operations detachment and many People's Voluntary Militia teams in Alma-Ata, Kiev, Minsk, Gorkiy, Dnepropetrovsk, Ulyanovsk, and Volgograd organize their work. Special groups for individual preventive work are operating here effectively. The experience of Vladimirovskaya Oblast, where party and labor veterans, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and enterprises and farm leaders constantly take part in this work, is of interest.

But proper attention is not paid everywhere to the People's Voluntary Militia teams and their influence is sometimes slight. Indeed, how can it be otherwise if the People's Voluntary Militia members are passive and limit their participation in strengthening order merely to strolls along the central streets? For instance, law violations are frequent on the streets of Murmansk and Chimkent, those fond of drink feel free, and the People's Voluntary Militia members are not to be seen here--you will seek them in vain. Why does this happen? The party and soviet organs of these cities are little concerned to enlist activists and leading workers to the People's Voluntary Militia teams and allow violations of the principle of voluntariness, which does not help to enhance the prestige of the defenders of law and order.

In practice the local soviets are in charge of the People's Voluntary Militia teams. In guiding and controlling the work of the voluntary guardians of order it is necessary to persistently strengthen their collaboration with the militia organs, and supply them with the necessary material and technical facilities, premises and transport. The party committees are also required to keep this important sector in view, to help organize the People's Voluntary Militia teams and in the ideological-political, moral and legal education of their members and to strive to insure that the communists set an example in fulfilling their public duty.

The title of People's Voluntary Militia member entails great obligations. In safeguarding the peace and security of his fellow-citizens, he acts as a fighter against violators of public order and our laws. This requires courage, a high degree of discipline and selfless devotion to the motherland. And it must be said that our life is rich in manifestations of selflessness by the People's Voluntary Militia members. It is important to support their initiative more solicitously, to encourage the best, show the work of the People's Militia teams more vividly in the press and on the movie and television screens.

Loyally serving the party and the cause of people's communist education is the honorable duty of the People's Voluntary Militia members.

CRUISER CAPTAIN INTERVIEWED ON TASKS, AIMS OF VOYAGE

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[Special correspondent Val. Goltsev report under the rubric "The Life of the Soviet Armed Forces": "On an Ocean Voyage"]

[Excerpts] The antisubmarine cruiser Minsk, which carries planes and helicopters, is now on an ocean training voyage. [paragraph continues]

IZVESTIYA'S correspondent contacted the ship by radio and asked Capt V. Gokinayev, commander of the cruiser, to answer the editorial office's questions.

I put the first question to him:

[Question] How is the voyage going? How are the equipment and technology behaving, how do the men feel? What is the weather like where the ship is?

[Answer] Our voyage is a severe test for all the crew. We have a very strict examiner--the ocean. On this trip the potentials of machinery and weapons are being tested. The days which have passed have shown that machinery and instruments are working reliably and there have been no failures or breakdowns in the material portion. As for personnel, all the ship's seamen, petty officers, chief petty officers, ensigns and officers have been exemplary in the skillful mastery of combat hardware and are demonstrating their endurance in the struggle against the whims of the weather. And the weather has not been kind to us on this trip.

The personnel are proud that they have the high honor of serving on such a modern ship and taking part in complex and crucial voyages.

[Question] If possible, tell us about your ship's combat purpose and its place in the overall formation of our glorious Soviet Navy.

[Answer] The ship's combat potentials and seagoing qualities arouse admiration. Our cruiser is capable of resolving various combat tasks in difficult weather conditions, in different parts of the world ocean, both independently and jointly with other naval forces. The electronic and radiotechnical facilities onboard make it possible for us to interpret the sea and air situation better and in a short space of time, and to make effective use of various weapons complexes.

Our ship was created by the labor of designers, engineers and workers in Soviet industry. The Minsk embodies the latest achievements of the country's science and of world science.

The ship provides excellent living and leisure conditions for all crew members.

[Question] And if your ship's firepower is compared with a prewar artillery cruiser or battleship, how does it look?

[Answer] It is on a completely different scale. A battleship or cruiser could fire over a maximum of 30-35 km. The Minsk is capable of resolving tasks with its weapons over a distance of many tens of kilometers--and always hitting the target. In a word, our ship's firepower is beyond comparison with the battleships of the past.

[Question] Your cruiser has aircraft onboard. What can you say about their purpose and methods of use in combat?

[Answer] Yes, there are helicopters and planes on our ship. This is not a new facility for our navy. They are capable of operating at a great distance from the ship. Our planes carry out vertical takeoff and landing on the ship's deck, like helicopters, and fly like supersonic planes.

The presence of aircraft onboard the ship increases its combat durability [ustoychivost]. The aircraft operate at various altitudes, including low and extremely low. This enables us to launch surprise attacks.

[Question] Have your pilots started their flights over the sea?

[Answer] Yes, our pilots are carrying out flights successfully. They are flying in very difficult weather conditions, by day and by night. And this requires an impeccable flying technique and high tactical, moral and psychological training. Our ship's pilots possess all these valuable qualities. I would particularly like to note the high flying skill of Officers N. Logachev, V. Svitochev, V. Pogorelov and V. Osinenko. They were the first to master the piloting techniques for this class of combat machines. The younger men are successfully fulfilling training tasks over the sea. Good results have been achieved in recent flights by the young pilots Yu. Ankudinov and V. Baluk.

[Question] How is the combat and political training of personnel going?

[Answer] Successfully. More than 60 percent of the personnel are now class specialists and masters in their field. Over 50 percent of the seamen have excellent indicators in combat and political training. On the high seas we carry out various studies in specialties and many exercises and training drills. This permits personnel to study the modern hardware which has been entrusted to them more thoroughly and to become profoundly familiar with the combat potentials of modern weapons.

[Question] What can you say about those with excellent indicators in your crew and about socialist competition on the ship?

[Answer] Before the cruiser set out on the voyage we adopted raised socialist pledges the main content of which is the struggle for the excellent fulfillment of all tasks facing the ship during the trip. The competitors' attention is directed toward exemplary servicing of hardware and weapons and maintaining them in excellent condition. We are doing a great deal to reduce combat norms and save fuel, lubricants and other valuable materials. The main aim of socialist competition is to make the ship the best in the formation. Every day we sum up results in each subunit. Today our competition leaders are the subunits of Officers Yu. Polyakov and A. Gorovtsov. There are many good specialists here. Hardware and weapons are maintained in exemplary condition. Combat readiness is maintained at the highest level in these subunits.

The time allowed for the radio session had expired. Finally I asked: What can you see on the horizon?

"U.S., British and Italian destroyers are following us as an 'escort of honor,'" the commander joked. "We are getting acquainted. So life is not dull for us."

The cruiser Minsk has set off into the ocean. It is vigilantly on watch today, protecting the state interests of the land of the soviets.